

Oil Painting (with or without solvents) Suggested Materials List (Extended)

Instructor: Charley Parker

www.gouachepaintingclass.com

Brushes

For water mixable oils, fairly stiff synthetic brushes labeled for oil or acrylic are generally preferred. Natural bristle oil painting brushes (hog bristle) retain too much water. For traditional oils, either synthetic or natural bristle can be used.

I like Princeton 6300 series synthetics, but the inexpensive long handled Simply Simmons series at Michaels Crafts stores would be fine. Recommended starting set:

Size numbers vary by manufacturer; go by approximate inch measure

- #8 (3/4") filbert, ideally two of these, for dark and light colors
- * #6 (1/2") flat, ideally two of these
- #4 (3/8") filbert, ideally, two of these
- #6 or #8 round synthetic, ideally, two of these

Anything close to these is fine, If you have flats instead of filberts, that's OK. I've suggested two of each size; If you use one for dark colors and one for light colors, they don't have to be washed out as often or as thoroughly to change colors.

• Painting panel or canvas, and/or oil paper

- Painting panel ("Gessobord" or canvas panel), or pre-stretched canvas if you prefer, 8x10" or 9x12"
- And/or oil paper pad ("Arches Oil Paper", "Canson Canva-Paper"), 9x12" pad

Pre-gessoed painting panels meant for oil or acrylic come as smooth or with canvas bonded to them. I usually prefer smooth, you may prefer the canvas texture, it's up to you.

Several paper manufacturers make pads of treated paper suitable for oil sketches. I recommend this for the class (even if you also use a panel or canvas) because it is inexpensive compared to panels or canvas, and encourages freedom and experimentation. You can certainly just use canvas boards or painting panels if you prefer.

Available locally

Strathmore 300 Series Canvas Paper Pad, 9 x 12 inches(10 sheets) - available locally at Michael's Craft Stores

Available online

Arches Oil Paper Pad, 9 x 12 inches (12 sheets) (this is the brand I prefer, not sure if Jerry's Artarama carries it)
Canson Foundation Canva-Paper Pad, 9 x 12 inches (10 sheets)

Painting Knife or Palette knife

Ideally, the kind with a blade in an extended diamond shape, about 2" long, but whatever you already have should be fine.

<http://www.michaels.com/royal-and-langnickel-painting-palette-knife-p4/D056109S.html>

Inexpensive sketchbook for initial sketch

I recommend starting with a pencil or marker sketch to work out the composition on inexpensive paper before starting to paint. I use a 6x8" Strathmore 400 Series Drawing Sketchpad, but any sketchbook will do.

Pencils

Dark pencil: 2B or darker drawing pencil is nice for initial sketch and to create tone for a value study. Regular #2 office supply pencil is also fine. You can also use markers for an initial sketch, one for line and another, like a tan or gray brush marker, to create tone for value study.

Charcoal pencil: medium for laying out your painting. (Graphite doesn't work as well as charcoal for laying out an oil painting.)

Palette or palette paper

You can use a flat plastic or wood palette, or a pad of disposable palette paper.

You can also make a disposable palette by taping a sheet of wax paper over a piece of cardboard (bring extra wax paper in case it rips), you could also use an acrylic clipboard as a makeshift palette.

I sometimes use a Masterson Sta-Wet Painter's Pal Palette (13" x 12 1/2") — (<https://www.dickblick.com/products/masterson-sta-wet-painters-pal-palette/>); this is a palette with a sealing lid that is made for to keep acrylic wet, but you can take out the sponge insert and replace it with a pad of 9 x 12 disposable palette paper. Placing a few drops of pure clove oil in the palette before closing can keep oil paint wet for several days.

Clips

Office clips, potato chip clips or beach towel clips can be handy for holding your paper or pad to the support or board.

Rag and/or paper towels

For wiping paint off your brushes as you work. An old (or inexpensive new) washcloth is best. Small, and thick enough so the paint does not come through on your hands when you wipe your brush.

Rags are best, but you can also use paper towels— quality towels are better for wiping your brushes than cheaper ones that get soggy more quickly. Viva works well. You will likely only need a 4 or 5 towels, if that.

Bags to carry your rag and wet brushes home

Twist-tie food storage bags work well, plastic shopping bags are OK

Water jar (for rinsing brushes with water mixable oils)

A medium size plastic peanut butter jar or mayonnaise jar works well.

Clip-on palette cups (optional)

Water mixable thinner and medium will be supplied for the workshop in small jars.

If you prefer, there are palette cups that clip onto a drawing board or palette, Those painting in traditional oils with solvents will need some kind of small containers for solvent and medium:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/plastic-palette-cups-w-screw-on-caps/>

Flat cardboard box or Tupperware container

Something to carry your wet painting home - large enough to carry your 9 x 12 paper without it sliding around in your car. A pizza box is good. A shirt box might be large enough. You might want one to carry your palette as well.

Paint

For those who want to try water mixable oil paints

Water Mixable Oil Paint, thinner and medium will be provided for the class.

Enough paint in the recommended “core palette” colors will be provided as needed on the class days. This will allow you to try working in water mixable oils before making an investment in paint. Students will also be provided with water mixable thinner and medium.

When buying your own water mixable oil paint

The most common brand you will find locally in Delaware stores, is Winsor & Newton’s Artisan brand. If you have this brand and would like to use it, that’s fine.

However, if you are buying water mixable oil paints for the first time, I recommend other brands, such as Holbein’s Duo Aqua brand, or Royal Talens’ Cobra brand. These have to be ordered through online suppliers (though the Dick Blick store in Philadelphia carries Holbein Duo Aqua water mixable oils and Jerry’s in Newark carries Grumbacker Max, which is also artist grade paint).

What Winsor and Newton does not make obvious is that the Artisan Water Mixable Oils are a student grade paint, made to be as inexpensive as possible, rather than artist grade (similar to their “Winton” student grade oil paints, as opposed to their professional grade “Artist’s Oil Paints”). That’s not to say they are “bad” paints, just that they are of lesser quality — made with cost cutting in mind — lower in pigment, with lower quality binder and with less desirable handling characteristics than the professional grade paints from Holbein, Royal Talens and others.

Note, however, that Royal Talens also has a confusingly named line of Royal Talens Cobra “Study” Water Mixable oils. This is their student grade water mixable oil paint. I recommend the Cobra paints without the word “Study” in the brand name. (I still prefer Holbein Duo Aqua overall.)

The paints supplied for the workshop will be professional grade water mixable oils from Holbein and Royal Talens.

Core palette (Holbein, 40 ml tubes, purchased online, approximate prices)

Online

\$10.00 Ultramarine Blue (Ultramarine Deep)

\$22.00 Cadmium Yellow or Cadmium Yellow Light (not “Cadmium Yellow Light Hue”)

\$12.00 Alizarin Crimson

\$11.00 Transparent Oxide Red (Royal Talens) or Burnt Sienna (Holbein)

\$11.00 Phthalo Green (or Phthalo Green Yellow Shade)

\$13.00 Titanium White

\$79.00

This is a limited palette — only five colors and white — that can produce a surprising range of beautiful colors.

If you already have other, similar colors that you would like to use, I'll accommodate you as well as I can, but I will primarily be discussing and demonstrating color mixing with the palette described above.

The Cadmium Yellow may seem expensive, but it's so strong in mixes that one tube will last a long time. It's a difficult color to effectively substitute for; no other yellow is as strong or as opaque. Cheaper colors with the word “hue” in the name are imitations or substitutes for the real color.

Water mixable thinner and medium

Water mixable thinner and medium will be supplied for the workshop.

When buying your own water mixable thinner and medium, I find those from Winsor and Newton to be perfectly fine. They are readily available, mix well with other brands of water mixable oil paint, and don't seem to suffer from any corner cutting.

While it's possible to thin the paint with water for the early stages of painting, I think you get much better results using a water mixable thinner, and just use water for cleaning your brushes.

Even the best brands of water mixable oil are a bit “stuff” compared to some brands of traditional oils that contain more oil and flow more easily straight from the tube. A little bit of water mixable medium can bring the paint to a more desirable consistency when painting.

For those painting in traditional oils with their own paint

- **Paint** — You're welcome to bring colors you have, but color mixing with a limited palette will be demonstrated with the "core palette" listed above.
- **Solvent** — Odorless mineral spirits (for example, Gamsol)
- **Painting Medium** — Not necessary but can be helpful. Preferably slow drying rather than Liquin (or make your own by adding 1 part mineral spirits to 2 parts thickened linseed oil or stand oil)
- **Jar, palette cups, containers**
 - Jar with lid for odorless mineral spirits
 - Palette cups (ideally with lids), or small jars with lids, for using mineral spirits and medium while painting
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/plastic-palette-cups-w-screw-on-caps/>

You might also want a thin tall jar for holding brushes while you paint.

Local shopping

Jerry's Artarama, 269 S. Main Street, Newark, DE

Jerry's is a true art supply store, well stocked and with a knowledgeable staff. They should have most of the items on this list, but they do not carry Holbein Aqua Duo Oils. However, they should have Grumbacker Max Water Mixable Oils, which are artist grade paints. Lukas Berlin Water Mixable Oils are student grade, like Artisan.

Michael's craft store, Naaman's Road & 202 or Christiana Center, Newark

Many of the art supply items should be available at the Michael's crafts store at Naaman's Road & 202. However, in my experience that store is often poorly stocked with art supplies; I don't know about the store in Christiana. Michael's offers a limited range of art materials under the best of conditions. It's a craft store with some art supplies, not an art store.

They should have:

Winsor & Newton Artisan water mixable oil paints and mediums. (However, at their local price for Artisan, you could order the higher quality Holbein online), Simply Simmons synthetic brushes, though their selection is often picked-over and limited at the 202 store, Strathmore Canvas pads and sketchbooks, plastic or wooden palettes, disposable palette paper.

Dick Blick Philadelphia 1330 Chestnut St, Philadelphia (between 13th and Broad)

This is the largest art supply store in the region. Not convenient by car, but easy to get to by train, about three blocks from Jefferson Station (Septa Regional Rail from Claymont or Wilmington). The store is downstairs, only the entrance is at street level.

Online shopping

Individual items are usually cheaper online; shipping is usually free on orders of \$35.00 or more, but you have to order ahead.

Dick Blick

<https://www.dickblick.com>

Blick is the largest online art supplies retailer, with the broadest selection.

Jerry's Artarama

<http://www.jerrysartarama.com>

Pretty extensive selection. Prices between Blick & Jerry's vary but are usually competitive.

Cheap Joe's

<https://www.cheapjoes.com>

Comparable to Jerry's Artarama & Dick Blick

Amazon.com

You can also find most of these materials on Amazon, if you prefer. However, I find that many art supplies are more expensive from Amazon than from dedicated art supply companies, and shipping can be more expensive if you don't have Prime.