

PAINTING WITH A LOOSE BRUSH

Art Center Manatee

Instructor: **Lucy Barber**

Fall 2017 – Winter 2018

Tuesday afternoon class sessions 1pm – 4pm

SUPPLY LIST FOR USING OILS – three pages – please read carefully

• Surfaces to paint on:

Prepared panels and canvases keep things simple and save time. Pre-primed canvases can be found at Blick, Utrecht, etc. or locally in Sarasota (Art&Frame, Michaels, Blue Line). Gessoed masonite panels are good too and come cradled and uncradled. I recommend the cradled panels because they are easier to clamp into the easels. Prepared supports are worth it for the time they save.

Do your best to tone support in advance for a neutral, medium-value surface, grey is fine. If using oil paint to tone, apply it diluted with Gamsol or Turpenoid, no oil, and allow it to dry a day or two before beginning your painting.

Heavy weight paper, gessoed is also a good surface to paint on, though you'll need a board to tape it to.

• Sizes:

Approximately 8"x10" – 11" x 14" – 12" x 12" – are examples of good sizes.

• Palette:

Approximately 12x16" or equivalent, **no smaller**. Avoid palettes with a white finish.

Better choices are palettes with a neutral, medium value surface, such as:

- A plexiglass palette painted on the back with neutral, medium value gray. Latex, acrylic or spray paint will work.
- A pad of wax Paper disposable palettes 12" x 16" are what I recommend; make sure it's gray, which works really well. 12" x 16", no smaller.
- A wooden palette that has been prepared with several coats of medium (4 parts turp. to 1 part stand oil) and allowed to dry between coats.

A solid palette such wood, glass or plexi, lets you get more physical when mixing without tearing the paper.

• Palette knife: A palette knife is necessary for mixing paint. A knife with a blade about 3" in length and 1/2" wide, with a rounded point, is good for general use. Knives that bend where the blade attaches to the handle are the ones to get, "trowel" type of knife.

• Solvent:

IMPORTANT: Use only **ODORLESS** such as Gamsol or Turpenoid.

• Paint Medium:

Because we'll be doing several short session paintings each day you may not need medium. However, there are many recipes for medium and also commercially made versions. You can start with a basic recipe of 1-part stand (or linseed) oil to 4- or 5-parts thinner. Do not get the very thick linseed oil, which is called sun-thickened. Medium sized empty plastic bottles work well for mixing and storing your medium. Otherwise you could simply use linseed oil. We do not use Liquin because it is too toxic.

• **Palette cups:**

Bring two small jars with lids for your gamsol or turpoid -- important to have. I don't recommend the small clip-on metal cups with screw-on lids

• **Brushes:**

Here are some that are good to start with: Natural bristle brushes, one ½ inch, one ¾ inch, and one 1 inch (that's the width of the brush at the ferule). Make sure you have brights or flats (squared corners), as well as filberts (rounded corners).

Synthetic brushes have come a long way so try some of them out in the same sizes listed above. If you have not painted in oil with sable brushes, try it out, though they are more expensive but are worth it. If you are buying only one sable brush, try a bright or a round. About ¾ inch wide for sable flats, ½ inch for round, are good to try.

• **Viewfinder:**

Used to help with composition selection. I recommend an adjustable gray plastic one called a Viewcatcher or you can make your own using matt board.

• **Paint:**

Try to avoid buying inexpensive colors that are called "hues," or "student grade (Winton)," as in cerulean blue "hue," or cadmium yellow "hue." These are lower in quality and permanence. Medium-priced paints, like Utrecht, Gamblin or Winsor & Newton, are fine. Old Holland and Williamsburg paints are very good, though more expensive. Here is a suggested list of colors for a basic palette.

The colors in bold and underlined are required and specific. Please do not substitute other colors for the required colors.

37ml tubes:

Indian yellow

cadmium lemon

cadmium yellow (medium)

cadmium red light

alizarin crimson

viridian

chromium oxide green

dioxazine violet

ultramarine blue

cerulean blue (Utrecht) **or cobalt blue**

raw umber

Ivory Black

titanium white (120-200ml)

Here are a few colors that can be useful for mixing intense colors, but should only be used when the colors in the setup can't be mixed with the basic palette. I don't recommend them as part of a basic palette. These colors can also overpower a palette, that's why they're not on the basic palette:

Pthalo blue

Pthalo turquoise

Perylene red

Perylene crimson

Quinacridone red

Quinacridone violet

OTHER/Misc.

- Protective latex gloves for your hands
- Small notebook or sketchpad and 2B pencil for thumbnail drawings.
- Rags or paper towels.
- Soap: A bar of soap to wash brushes
- Disposable bag: To put soiled rags in before disposal.
- Apron or painting shirt
- masking tape
- self-adhesive Velcro
- small plastic bottle of baby oil. Baby oil is great for “washing” your hands, wiping off paint before you wash them. Paint comes off easily!

You might want to bring a bottle of water or something to drink.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at lucy@lucybarber.com.