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Materials & Equipment List

Easel

I recommend standing when you paint, especially outside. If we are going outside, you'll need a portable plein air easel, of which there are many types.

However, if we're in a classroom, as at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center, you'll be provided with a tabletop easel.



The basic style of standing portable easel is the folding wooden French pochade. I have three of these I can lend out but you must ask me to bring one first! If we're in my studio, I have several student easels available for students to use - ask ahead to reserve one if you need it.

Supports (canvas)

- Bring at least one, maybe two, medium (e.g. 8×10 - 12×16) canvas, primed wood panel, or canvas panel. Cheap stretched canvas or canvas panels from Michaels or AC Moore will do fine. (FYI I don't stain my canvases - I paint right onto the white surface as it comes.)

Brushes & Knives



Palette Knife: I often use a combination of brush and palette knife in my work. You need a metal palette knife for mixing paint regardless. I use a chip brush (see below) for “scrubbing in” initial layers and my brushes and painting knife for the rest of the painting. I use a painting knife with a long straight blade and a square edge. It’s key to painting in my style if that’s your interest. DickBlick.com sells one for \$8, product code: 03103-1081, blue comfort grip painting knife style 81. Otherwise any shape will do.

•“Chip” Brushes: hardware store brushes keep you from getting too “fussy” You need one small to medium size chip brush.



Oil Painting Brushes: The main thing here is that your brushes are **stiff** ones, not too soft and not all small. It's good to have several kinds of tips too, including a **rounded** "filbert" style and a straight-edge "flat" style brush. Synthetic bristle is fine as long as it's stiff.

- Palette: wood, for mixing your oil colors. Rub olive oil or other vegetable oil into it before you first use it.



Colors

- Titanium White (**large** tube)
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson (i.e. red)
- Cadmium Yellow Light or Pale (for occasional use SPARINGLY!) – NOT "HUE" - spring for the higher prices led on this one.
- Ultramarine Blue (French Ultramarine Blue is the same thing)
- Burnt Umber
- Yellow Ochre

Clean-Up Solvent

- **Cleaning Solvent:** I use Mona Lisa **Odorless Mineral Spirits (aka paint thinner)** in the studio available in quantity at Michaels (grab the 40% or 50% off coupon online and buy the large quantity to decant into a jar). If you want a completely solvent-free system, try plant-based oils (walnut oil, linseed or cooking-grade safflower oil) for cleaning brushes.

Paper Towels/Rags (I strongly recommend the blue “shop towels,” the hardware store version of paper towels. They’re



more absorbent, more durable, and cheaper too).

Medium

Painters mix various mediums into their paint to change its consistency and drying time. I paint mostly directly and in layers wet on wet, and often use no medium at all, so if you're a beginner don't worry about it. As you figure out what kind of painter you are, you'll discover the uses of mediums to create different effects in different kinds of work. If you like, bring a drying medium like Liquin or Galkyd – I'll use either one at times.

If we're going to be working outside:

Wide brim hat

Sunscreen

Drinking water

Bug spray

IMPORTANT: Wear old clothes or bring a smock or an apron!
You WILL get messy if you paint like I do!