

Natalie Featherston

Material List — Online Oil Painting Workshop

Scottsdale Artists School, 4/2 - 4/19, 2024

My materials list is more of a 'things I like and use' than a go-buy list. Most of these supplies we will discuss in class, which gives you a chance to learn more before going out and buying a ton of stuff you may not find useful in your own practice.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

-A smooth panel or canvas of your choice, prepared for paint. You can buy Ampersand boards prepared for painting with a gesso ground at most art supply stores. Artefex panels also offer a wide range of surfaces for oil painting. I prefer a toned ground rather than white, but that's a personal choice. You could tone the panel yourself with a wash of solvent and burnt umber.

-Oil paints: Use what you have and we can go from there. I'll discuss color mixing strategy and palette organization and will offer suggestions on which colors you might consider adding to your arsenal, as well as list of the paints and brands I use.

A basic oil painting kit should have white, burnt umber, cadmium yellow light, cadmium orange/red, cadmium red deep, thalo blue, thalo green, burnt sienna and ivory black. Additional hues would be a dioxazine purple, ultramarine blue, alizarin crimson, quinacridone magenta, sap green, raw umber and a cadmium orange medium hue.

-Oil painting medium of your choice: I prefer Chelsea Lean Medium and Italian Wax Medium (Maroger), but also like Gamblin's Galkyd Lite which is easy to find. The best brand of Maroger you can buy is the Venetian Wax Medium from Classic Mediums - it's the closest to the original made by Jacques Maroger.

-Odorless mineral spirits or solvent: Gamblin's Gamsol is a good choice. Have a clean jar to save and recycle spent solvents.

-Paper towels and/or a lint free rag

-Brushes: I prefer an assortment of bristle types and sizes in rounds. For example, I usually block in with a natural bristle in size #6, then move to a synthetic #4 Monarch (Windsor and Newton). Some of my favorite detail brushes are the cheap Jerry's brand Ebony Splendor in a #0 and WN Scepter Gold II rounds in a 000. We will talk about brushes—just bring what you're comfortable with and already enjoy using.

-Palette knife for mixing paint: I love the Holbein 1099 S Series Japanese steel blade No.39, several shapes and sizes are available.

-Palette cups or small jars for solvent and medium

-Palette: I prefer a sheet of glass backed with cardboard and grey duct taped edges, since glass is easy to clean with a razor scraper. Use what you're comfortable with; wood or glass are my preferences, although there are many good choices out there.

-A few sheets of tracing paper at least the size of your panel to make a drawing for an oil transfer. I like to buy a roll and cut off what I need as it's more economical.

-Basic drawing supplies: Pencils, erasers, vine charcoal, mahl stick or plumb line if you use one. We will make simple line drawings on tracing paper for transfer to panel. Just a plain pencil will be fine.

-Masking tape, Blue painter's tape and a T-square are helpful tools to have around.

If you have questions, I'm happy to answer them. Email me at nfeatherston@msn.com