

Getting Confident in Oils: Materials List

Here is an opportunity to experiment with oil paints. In this course we will work from observation as well as making some abstract works to explore this versatile medium. Starting from basics we will look at materials and techniques in a relaxed and supportive environment to enable you to have fun and produce confident paintings.

What you will need:

Flat Palette (wood or plastic, without wells, or tear off palettes). You can use a glass or a melamine chopping board if you find a cheap one, but sometimes proper palettes are just as cheap. Tear off palettes don't give you much mixing room (but are very easy with cleaning up as you can just throw them away).

Canvas Board or Oil Painting Pad Size 16x12"/406x305mm or closest to this size.

2 Jam Jars with Lids (for turps/white spirit) - Having the lids will enable you to transport the turps/white spirit home.

Plastic Storage Box / Wheeled Trolley / Something to Carry Wet Paintings Home in - large enough for your canvas board/pad to go inside.

White Spirit / Pure Turpentine - for thinning paint and cleaning brushes (white spirit tends to give paintings a longer drying time).

Cheap Bar of Soap - for cleaning brushes.

Old Rags / Kitchen Roll.

Cling Film - to wrap palette after class (I do have some at SHP).

Masking Tape.

Old Shirt / Apron / Overalls - to protect your clothes.

Baby Wipes - for cleaning up as they work brilliantly with oil paint (I will look into an option with less waste).

A Palette Knife - a medium sized trowel shaped one and if possible a small trowel shaped one too (metal ones tend to be better than the plastic ones).

Please note brush sizes vary from manufacturer to manufacturer so I have not specified exact sizes. You should try to get a variety of sizes and shapes.

Medium Sized Filbert Brush - this is a flat brush with a rounded tip.

Medium Sized Flat Brush.

Small Round Brush - these can be hog or nylon/synthetic. Try to get some of each. If you can afford additional brushes, the more you have the better, some small ones would be good too.

Paints - student oils or quality oils are your best, cheapest option. Generally people buy Winsor & Newton or Daler Rowney. The colours vary slightly depending on the manufacturer.

Titanium White

Cadmium Yellow

Lemon Yellow

Ultramarine

Prussian Blue or Phthalo Blue

Alizarin Crimson

Cadmium Red

Raw or Burnt Umber - not essential

Yellow Ochre - not essential

Burnt Sienna - not essential

Starting off with tube size 37ml is best until you know if you enjoy working with oil paint, but I would recommend a much larger tube of the white paint. The really tiny tubes will not last very long so are not recommended.

The mail order suppliers tend to be cheaper than art shops or Hobbycraft. If you wish to purchase your materials via the internet or mail order the following are good suppliers:

Atlantis Art Materials www.atlantisart.co.uk 020 7377 8855 (they have a large warehouse shop that you can also visit in Brick Lane London).

Jackson's Art Supplies www.jacksonsart.co.uk 0844 499 843

Great Art www.greatart.co.uk 08433571572

Cass Art www.cassart.co.uk

Oil is a versatile medium with a slow drying time. It is very satisfying to work with but you will get messy so please bring old clothes or an overall.

As we won't have space to dry the works you will need something to take your paintings and all your bits-and-pieces home in. Tool boxes are great for storing all your paints in and transporting them. Many students purchase wheelie crates to save themselves carrying lots of equipment - one such brand is called "Pack and Roll" you can find it easily online.

I look forward to meeting you.

Best wishes, Melanie Paice