

Corcoran College of Art and Design
Intro, Intermediate, and Pre-College Painting Materials List

Intro Students: The pace of this class is designed for Oil Paint; however, I understand that some people have concerns about this media. Please use the info on page 3 of this list to help you decide between Oil and Acrylic Paint. You can be accommodated if you choose acrylic.

Intermediate Students may use oil or acrylic, depending on your preference, and may also deviate from the suggested palette where noted.

First day of Class

Intermediate Students should follow the list below, but may work in the palette of their choice.

Intro and Pre-College Students: On the first day of class we will be using a limited palette, so you will not need to bring the full painting kit. Please bring the following materials, and we will discuss the extended list during class.

1 stretched canvas or support, 18x24 or smaller
palette
at least 2 brushes (1 large, 1 small)
paint: burnt sienna, raw umber, and white
painter's medium
solvent (for oil paint)
pliers or screw-driver (for opening solvents, if they have not been opened already)
cups or containers for medium and solvent (oil) or water (acrylic)
paper towels or rags

Materials required for both Oil and Acrylic

Paint rags/paper-towels

Palette, or disposable palette paper

Palette knife

Assortment of Brushes, at least three of each:

Bristle, 'Flat' or 'Bright' shape, assorted sizes 3 – 10... get at least one big one.

Sable, 'Filbert' shape, assorted sizes (can be smaller than bristle brushes. I am a HUGE fan of the Utrecht brand 239 series sable/synthetic blend brushes).

At least one good round Sable brush, for detail/line work, small or medium size (again, Utrecht 239 series is excellent).

Soap for cleaning brushes: a bar of Ivory soap works fine- no need to splurge on art-store soap

Various primed canvasses or supports. You will need at least 3 supports for this class, 11 x 14 or larger. Canvas boards are low quality and cheap- ok for the start of the semester, but please plan to switch to something more substantial (stretched canvas, or gessoed panel) after the 2nd or 3rd class.

Optional: sketchbook and pencils for preliminary/compositional drawings

Paints- palette for both Oil and Acrylic.

Please steer away from anything marked 'hue' whenever possible, and if your budget allows. **Acrylic Painters:** paints in tubes or plastic jars will be more pigmented and a better/more versatile consistency than liquid (craft) paints in bottles. **These Colors** are required for everyone. You may substitute the others with similar colors if necessary.

Titanium White (Large tube. All other paints can be bought in smaller quantities)

Burnt Sienna

Yellow Ochre

Raw Umber

Ultramarine Blue

Pthalo (or Thalo) Blue

Hansa Yellow Light or Lemon Yellow

Cadmium Yellow Medium

Quinacridone Violet or Quinacridone Red or Alizarin Crimson

Cadmium Red

Viridian Green

Optional: any other colors that catch your eye (Sap Green, Pthalo Green, Cobalt Blue, Naples Yellow, etc...)

Materials for Oil Paint

Gloves (Nitrile or Vinyl exam gloves- Latex and Rubber will dissolve in the solvents)

Solvent: Corcoran ONLY allows the use of Gamsol, odorless spirits.

Pliers or screw-driver (for opening odorless mineral spirits.)

2 containers with lids for solvents- either glass jars or metal, ideally big enough to fit your hand in (coffee-cans work great, you can also get unused paint cans from the hardware/interior paint store for cheap).

Additional (2 or more) assorted smaller metal cans/lids for mediums, (tuna fish or cat food cans, lids to glass jars like spaghetti sauce, etc).

Painting Medium: Liquin (by Windsor Newton) or a comparable alkyd-base medium: will decrease drying time

-or- traditional Linseed oil: slow drying, but traditional, and non-toxic

NOT Galkyd (by Gamblin)- too many fumes

Materials for Acrylic Paint

Assorted plastic containers for water (solo cups, yogurt containers, etc)

Spray bottle for water

Medium: there are MANY to choose from, so think about what you want. Two good choices are Matte Medium (good, all around medium, does not increase gloss of painting)

-and/or- Retarder Gel to slow drying time- can be used alone or with Matte medium.

Optional: plastic cups with lids for saving paint

Oil vs. Acrylic

If you are a beginning painter, you should give some serious thought to Oil vs. Acrylic paint before you buy your supplies. Both media are extremely versatile, and produce similar results visually, but they handle very differently. Look over the following list of pros and cons, and maybe talk to your salesperson at the art supply store to help you select a media that will work best for you.

Oil- Attributes	Acrylic- Attributes
More traditional	Non-toxic, can be cleaned with soap and water
Slow drying time allows for more ‘wet into wet’ style painting, and intermixing of colors on the canvas.	Dries very quickly, mistakes can be painted over in a matter of minutes
Mistakes are corrected by painting thickly and/or scraping areas with palette knife	
Heavy bodied and versatile, allows for thin paint and thick, textured, impasto-style marks	Cons
Cons – HEALTH CONCERNS (all health risks may be mitigated with proper precautions and protective gloves) *	Consistency much thinner, and the paint flattens as it dries. Difficult to achieve thick or impasto-style marks.
Requires the use of solvents, which may have harmful fumes, and cannot be disposed of in the sink	Paints tend to be more transparent, particularly when combined with water or other medium, may have difficulty covering mistakes
Some pigments considered toxic, painters should consider painting in latex or rubber gloves for their protection	Quick drying time shortens life of your brushes

*Do not let the apparent health risks of oil paint scare you away. Remember that oil paint ‘technology’ has been around for hundreds of years, with minimal health effects. The key is to minimize both exposure to solvent vapors and the contact of paint/solvents with your skin. This can be done easily by painting in exam gloves, working in a room with adequate ventilation, and keeping a lid on your solvents as much as possible. The key factor in your decision should be the difference in drying time, and other particularities of paint behavior.