



ANDERSEN PAINTING CLASS

BASIC APPROACH

There are three fundamental aspects to my instruction in Oil Painting class. Drawing, Composition, and Values (the degree of light/dark). I work *alla prima*; or “wet-on-wet”.

I find this more direct approach most appealing.

First step, sketch your subject matter loosely; make as many sketches (small are fine) as it takes to give you a good place and good composition* to start. Choose the “best” and work it into three values: dark, light and half-tone. When you are settled on a composition, transfer loosely to the canvas. Block in the composition **very simply**, with three values. The rest is using the color to get the effect you hope for and to the degree of finish that satisfies you.

CARE OF SUPPLIES

Note: You get what you pay for! Fewer good colors (see supply list) are better than lots of exotic colors; the same is true for brushes.

1. Wooden **palettes** need to be sealed with a wash of some warm color (umber, reds) in a little solvent. Spread evenly over wood, then wipe to even color. Repeat with linseed oil or the like. Wipe off working area of palette. It's helpful to line up your paints on one long edge of the palette (light to dark, starting either side, is helpful), for maximum mixing area and to allow you to save some paint not used yet. Wipe off working area of palette. Best to line up your paints on one long edge of the palette.

2. **Canvases/canvas boards;** It is ideal to “tone” the canvas, similar to toning the palette, with a wash of solvent and color; goal is middle (between dark and light) value.

3. **Cleaning brushes:** first swish side-to-side (never up and down) in solvent, squeezing out as much paint as possible. Next, any of the following; wipe brush along soap bar (Fells Naphtha is good, or other) under warm running water. Your goal is to see the water running clear as you work, leaving no paint in the brush. Oils like baby oil, or Skin-so-Soft are also good, and especially useful if you are painting outdoors to clean brushes and your hands without leaving solvent residue on your hands.

NOTE: we can store one or two paintings for each student at the Umbrella, but not supplies.

CLEAN UP

No solvent may be poured down the drain. You need to absorb it into rags or paper towels and dispose in open trash

SUPPLY LIST FOR OIL PAINTING CLASS

Oil Paint Color BASICS:

White (large tube)

Cerulean Blue

Cadmium Yellow Light

Ultramarine or Cobalt Blue

Cadmium Red Light

Alizarin Crimson

Yellow Ochre

Other colors at will!

****I recommend purchasing a mid-range artist quality; NOT the cheapest, student brands.**

Utrecht **Artists line** is a very good cost/quality purchase, available online or in Boston

Canvas or Panels: A selection of 9"X12" (approximately) and 12"x16" stretched canvases or gesso-prepared panels – larger, too, if you like!

Brushes

(At least) #4 and #6 Bristle brushes: Filberts or Flats

Solvent/medium

Clean air solvent (like) Gamsol – not smallest bottle! You will use a bit.

Clip-on (to palette) **cup for solvent/mediums** or small jar/cup

Palette - wooden preferred, *or gray paper palette pad* – larger size

Drawing pad: 11"x18", or larger

Drawing tools: charcoal, and or **soft** drawing pencils or graphite stick

Palette knife

Paper towels (Viva works great) or rags

Feel free to write or call with questions!

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