Kevin Kusiolek – Oil Painting Material List

Oil Painting Palette – Keep it simple!

- Opaque Yellow (Cadmium Yellow or Hansa Yellow Medium)
- Opaque Red (Cadmium Red Light or Pyrrole Red)
- Transparent Yellow Earth (Transparent Yellow Oxide)
- Transparent Red (Transparent Red Oxide)
- Ultramarine Blue
- Alizarin Crimson or Alizarin Permanent
- Ivory Black or Chromatic Black
- Titanium White or Flake White Replacement
- Yellow Ochre
- Optional Colors – Transparent Green (Phthalo Green), Azo Orange, Phthalo Blue,

As far as brands go, this will be a personal choice dependent on your budget, experience, and personal preference. Artist grade is key to ensure the pigment is as pure as possible without fillers. Some brands that I recommend are below (in order of price point):

- Winsor Newton – Artist Grade – ($)
- Gamblin ($$)
- M Graham ($$$)
- Michael Harding ($$$)
- Rembrandt ($$$)
- Old Holand ($$$$)

Medium/Solvent

- Gamsol – for thinning paint and cleaning brushes (contains VOCs)
- Liquin – Oil medium (contains VOCs)
- Safflower Oil – can be used as a natural medium and brush cleaner
- Feel free to use any medium you prefer. Michael Harding and Gamblin both offer solvent free solutions with no VOCs.

Brushes/Tools

I prefer to use an assortment of hog bristle brushes and synthetic brushes depending on the painting that I'm working on. Always go up two sizes when buying brushes since there is a minimal difference between each size value.

- Assortment of long flat bristle brushes – mid to large sizes
- Assortment of long filbert bristle brushes - mid to large sizes
- Assortment of smaller oil painting synthetic brushes
    - A few brands that I like are DaVinci Maestro, Rosemary & Co, Trekell. Stick with professional grade if possible. If you take care of your brushes, they will last a very long time and will be worth the investment.
- Optional - Mottler and fan brushes are great for softening edges
- Palette Knife – purchase 1 or 2 for mixing paint
- Paper towels or paint rags
- Optional items for experimentation – Printmaking Brayer (1 inch), Paint scraper (any size), Rubber clay shaper tools

Surfaces/Support

- I prefer to paint on hard surfaces and not stretched canvas, but this is a personal preference. Whatever you choose, go for artist grade quality or better – it really makes a difference when applying paint. Below are a few brands and surfaces I like to use:
    - Cradled Ampersand Gesso board ($$$)
    - Trekell Artist Panels – Acrylic or Oil primed ($$$)
    - Centurion OP DLX – These come stretched or in sheets that you can tape to a board for studies or finished paintings ($)
    - Raymar Panels – C13DP ($$$$)
- Another option is to make your own panels if you choose to paint on a rigid surface. Buy good quality ¼ inch or thicker plywood or birch panels and apply quality gesso and sand between layers (3 layers minimum). Michael Harding sells a great acrylic gesso, but there are plenty of suitable artist grade brands.

Easel/Palette

- A portable easel is a great investment and there are plenty of options that can be used in the studio or outdoors.
- For mixing paint, I prefer glass that has a grey tone on the back to help judge color value against a neutral surface.
- Another option is a wood palette that is prepped with linseed oil.
- I usually advise against disposable plastic palettes, but feel free to begin with one if necessary.