

Painting Supply Suggestions

Ms. Grunt

I have had many former students write to me requesting information about what colors they should use for their oil paintings. I am posting here what we typically use in the Studio Portfolio classes at Penn Wood High School. This is a basic palette, and the idea is that I'd rather see you invest in primary colors and mix your colors as that makes it a bit more affordable when buying paint. I encourage you to search for 'limited palettes' on the internet and read what other artists use; you'll find lots of good ideas and may want to experiment to see what you like best.

Remember, a clipboard with wax paper works well for your palette. You can store your paint in an airtight container until your next session. A palette knife will prove a good investment for mixing. We used to use linseed oil to thin the paint; you must remember to dispose of rags in a metal container with a lid (get them wet first). Be sure to paint with lots of fresh air and don't sleep in the same space as wet oil paints. We have been using walnut seed oil (which, if you buy a high quality food-grade product likely in a health food aisle of a supermarket) which seems to have less odor. You should still be careful with the disposal but it may prove easier to manage in a home environment than linseed oil.

As for easels, you will have to decide if you primarily wish to paint indoors, or if you want the option to work outside. For outside use (and indoor) I like the Julian half box French easel; however this is expensive. You could opt for a simple lightweight aluminum easel that folds up and then carry your supplies in a different bag.

I suggest checking out Utrecht as they have a store down town (now part of Blick). Their brand is good, and as you're likely going to start out with a student-grade paint, it will be similar to what we use in class. The designation 'hue' means that the color is not as strong as the full-on cadmium color, but it is also safer and cheaper as you are not working with cadmium but rather a synthetic cadmium color. Later, if you become very serious about your painting, you may wish to safely explore the use of cadmium colors in your work.

White

Titanium White

Yellows

Cadmium Yellow (hue) light

Cadmium Yellow (hue) medium

Reds

Cadmium Red (hue) light

Alizarin Crimson

Blues

Ultramarine Blue

Cerulean Blue

**Phthalo blue (used on rare occasions as it may take over a painting when not used with care)*

Earth Tones

Burnt Sienna (I'm sure you remember that we use this. Believe it or not, I don't think you need to buy it, as you could mix it using a bit of yellow, red and blue.)