

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Painting (18+) 10 Week

Instructor: Nick Ostoff

Thursday, March 21 - May 23, 2 - 5 pm

Class 1: Introduction to course.

- Discussion of required materials and Still Life Project.
- Make 7-step grey scale and colour wheel.
- Materials: Canvas paper pad, plus all paints and supplies.
- Gallery Visit: 20th-century still life painting.

Class 2: Still Life Project.

- Small grisaille study of still life arrangement from observation. Focus on form, composition, and tonal values.
- Materials: Canvas paper pad, plus all paints and supplies.

Class 3: Still Life Project (continued).

- Larger colour painting of still life arrangement.
- Materials: 16" x 20" stretched canvas, plus all paints and supplies.

Class 4: Landscape Project.

- Exploring landscape and transferring photographic imagery through the grid technique.
- Materials: 18" x 24" stretched canvas, plus all paints and supplies.
- Gallery Visit: historical and contemporary landscape painting.

Class 5: Landscape Project (continued)

- Discussion of Portrait Project, using a portrait of yourself or friend or family member.
- Materials: 12" x 16" gessoed wood panel, plus all paints and supplies (and your landscape painting work-in-progress.)

Class 6: Portrait Project (continued).

- Finish portrait painting, followed by short group critique.
- Materials: same as previous week.

Class 7: Abstraction Project #1.

- Make a series of small abstract studies (3 or more) based on cropped/collaged image. Explore the following techniques: masking/stencils, scumbling, dry brush, staining, dripping, scraping, sgraffito, imprinting.
- Materials: Canvas paper pad, plus all paints and supplies.
- Gallery Visit: 20th-century and contemporary abstraction.

Class 8: Abstraction Project #2.

- Utilize one of your studies from Abstraction Project #1 as the starting point for a larger abstract painting on stretched canvas. Short group critique.
- Materials: 18" x 24" stretched canvas, plus all paints and supplies.

Class 9: Self-Guided Project.

- Select one or more approaches from the previous projects to create a self-guided painting that addresses some aspect of your own memory and lived experience.
- Materials: any support/substrate of your choosing, in any size (I will discuss this further), plus all paints and supplies.
- Gallery Visit: contemporary artists exploring memory and self-hood.

Class 10: Self-Guided Project (continued).

- Final work period, followed by final discussion and group critique.
- Materials: same as previous week.

MATERIALS LIST

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Items in **bold** are required for the first class.

ACRYLIC PAINTS & MEDIUMS

- **One tube of each: Titanium White, Mars or Lamp Black, Cadmium Yellow, Yellow Ochre, Cadmium Red Medium, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue, Van Dyke Brown or Raw Umber** (additional secondary colours recommended, but not required)
- **1 small container of acrylic retarder medium**
- 1 container of acrylic matte medium
- optional: acrylic modelling/molding paste

*Each tube of paint should be at least 60ml, but the Titanium White should be larger - at least 120ml.

**Top-quality brands are Golden and TriArt, but they can be expensive. For an affordable student-grade option, consider Amsterdam Standard, Liquitex Basics, or Winsor and Newton Galeria.

BRUSHES

- **stiff hog-hair brushes: numbers 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 in Flat;** numbers 2 and 4 in Round (at least one of each, but multiple brushes in each size/shape recommended)
- optional: wide house-painting brush

MISCELLANEOUS

- **at least one metal palette knife (more than one recommended)**
- **Disposable paper palette pad (size 12" x 16" or larger)**
- **empty plastic container (e.g., yogurt container)**
- masking tape
- **pencil (HB or 2H)**
- **ruler (longer the better - ideally 24" long)**
- optional: paint scraper
- optional: nitrile or latex gloves

SUPPORTS/SUBSTRATES

- **canvas paper pad (e.g., Canson or AboveGround brand) - 12" x 16" or larger (for 7-step grey scale, colour wheel, grisaille still life, and Abstraction Project #1)**
- one 16" x 20" stretched canvas (for Still Life Project)
- two 18" x 24" stretched canvases (for Landscape Project and Abstraction Project #2)
- one 12" x 16" cradled gessoed wood panel (for Portrait Project)
- one support of your choice for Self-Guided Project, in any size (I will discuss this further in class)

All material sizes are approximate. Please retain your receipts in case exchanges or returns are needed. On your first day of class, your instructor may recommend additional optional materials. Our Instructors will do their best to accommodate alternative materials whenever possible.

Suggested retailers for purchasing your art materials:

Aboveground Art Supplies (discount code: AGOSTUDENT10), DeSerres, Gwartzman's, Michaels, or your local art supply store.