Painting: The Essential Elements
Henry Finkelstein

Material List

You can work in any painting medium you wish in my classes. Most people use oils but if you prefer acrylics, pastels, watercolors these are welcome as well. If you already have supplies you can start with those. Below is a basic outline of what you will need for oils if anything is missing, (such as a large palette), and a list of suggested colors.

- Some soft vine charcoal, (not compressed). 12 sticks.

- At least 12, (or more eventually), bristle oil painting brushes, (not sable, nylon, or watercolor brushes when using oils). Get a variety of shapes between rounds, flats, and filberts, and sizes from #4 to #12 or 1/4" up to 1" in width.

- Cotton rags, not paper towels, not tiny - at least 12 x 12", from old clothes or can be purchased.

- A palette knife, 4-6" long, the ideal shape will be explained in class, "Che Son" brand #867 is one example. Metal not plastic

- A large, 18 x 24" or more, palette. Note: A large palette is crucial no matter which sort of paint you are using. There is always someone who shows up with a tiny palette. While they think it will be easier or cheaper they inevitably mix one color on the thing and have no room for anything else. If they want to adjust a color it becomes impossible. Very soon the whole palette is filled with a muddy mess and the student struggles with it having no control over the color they are trying to get. The student ends up frustrated and wonders why painting seems so hard when it's really only because they are using too small a palette. Please don't be this person. Each class that you come to with too small a palette will be a waste of your time and materials. To start out disposable paper palettes will do. Later on those who wish may want to make a permanent palette out of a large piece of glass. (I find a wooden palette to be sort of esoteric but if you are used to that then bring it, oiled ahead of time).

- Different surfaces to paint on will be discussed. Experienced painters should use whichever surfaces they like. For those starting out an inexpensive option could be Canson or Strathmore brand only Canvas Paper, with something to clip it on such as a drawing board or a piece of foam core. Canvas panels or pre-stretched canvasses are fine too. Eventually we will learn how to prime a canvas with Utrecht oil priming white which makes it much better.

- A tool box, tackle box, or the like, for organizing your tubes of paint and brushes, etc. Take
some time looking for the right thing. I have found those large Art Bin boxes to be tippy when opened and often fall off of a stool. It is important that you start out with your colors organized in a way that you can remember. The list I give below orders the colors into 3 groups: Yellows to Reds, Earths to Violets, and Blues to Greens. Hence three compartments for tubes would be ideal. I like the plastic trays with lids that take out food comes in. Three of these can then fit in the tool box that you choose.

- The differences between oil and acrylic paint will be discussed. Essentially oil paint has much more pigment in it than acrylic, and the pigments are usually more genuine than those that are often used in acrylics. Utrecht paint is as good and affordable a brand as any. Winsor Newton, Rembrandt, and Williamsburg are good too, although more expensive. Old Holland is the best but can be prohibitively expensive. Students may wish to experiment with some of the cheaper colors made by Old Holland, but this is by no means required.

Below is a list of suggested colors. Other colors can always be added if you wish, but avoid Pthalos, Thalo Blue or Green. They are too intense and difficult to use, (to be explained). Sometimes these are marketed with the brand as the color name such as Winsor Blue or Rembrandt Green, etc. All of these colors will be discussed in class.

1 large tube of White, 125 -225ml.

colors in 37 ml tubes:

**Yellows - Reds:** Lemon Yellow of some kind. (the best is Cadmium Yellow Lemon), Cadmium Yellow Light or Medium, Cadmium Red Light or Scarlet, Rose Madder or Alizarin Crimson - (but Not Rose Madder Genuine which is a way weaker pigment and much more expensive)

**Earths -Violets:** Raw Sienna, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber, Burnt Umber, Yellow Ochre, Mars Orange, (or some other opaque earth red such as Winsor Newton Terra Rosa), Dioxazine Purple or Winsor Violet.

**Blues - Greens:** Manganese Blue, (in this case Manganese Blue Hue is cheaper and acceptable), Ultramarine Blue, Viridian Green, (*not Viridian Green Hue* which is Thalo), Ivory Black.

For those getting oil paint:

- A 4 oz. +/-, wide mouthed jar with lid, such as a baby food jar or a mustard jar for medium.

- Artist's grade Linseed Oil. Utrecht is the cheapest and of fine quality sold by the pint. The little 4oz. bottles in other brands can be way too expensive. The differences between oils will be discussed in class.
- One quart of Gamsol or the Blue Can of Turpenoid - not the natural, (green can), variety of Turpenoid.

- A large wide mouthed 1 qt. jar such as a pickle jar or mayonnaise jar, and some Baby Oil, Cheap Vegetable Oil or Motor Oil to clean brushes.

- A 28 oz or larger tin can, such as a tomato can.

- A bar of soap.