

Introduction to Acrylic Painting

Instructor: Timothy Smith

Purpose of the course: This course is designed to introduce students to acrylic painting materials and techniques as a basis toward development of his/her own painting methodology. This is a studio course that provides a fundamental, theoretical, and technical approach to representational painting.

Course objectives:

- Develop a basic understanding of the materials and tools used to create an acrylic painting.
- Investigate the formal Elements of Art with a particular focus on color, value and form.
- Receive instruction on a variety of traditional and contemporary techniques (glazing, blending, impasto, ala prima, etc.)
- Expand his/her painting vocabulary, and ability to analyze a painting.
- Develop skill and confidence in working from observation while exercising powers of visual perception.

Outline: Each class will begin with a lecture and technical demonstration followed by hands on instruction where I offer one-on-one technical advice, constructive criticism and encouragement.

Week 1: This course will begin with an introduction to the 7 Elements of Art, which are the fundamental building blocks for all works of art. Students will participate in various drawing exercises that help reinforce these basic principles. Drawing materials will be included and the painting material list will be discussed.

Week 2: Students will be introduced to the materials and tools used in the studio and begin priming their first painting. Practical color theory will be our focus as I discuss common terms, color types, color relationships, and other basic rules. Each student will create a color wheel and complete a color mixing and matching exercise.

Week 3 - Week 5: Everyone will complete a series of still life paintings designed to implement the concepts we've covered in the first few weeks. Students will work on improving their observation and perceptual skills as they use color and value to develop form and create the illusion of space.

- Week 3: Single object still life
 - Compositional studies
 - Identify 6 areas of light
 - Choosing a color palette
 - Building form
- Week 4: Two object still life
 - Hierarchy/overlap
 - Scale/proportion
 - Perspective
 - Working in layers
- Week 5: Multiple object still life
 - Develop your process and workflow
 - Create dynamic compositions

- Under-painting, over-painting, highlights
- Identify strengths and weakness
- Group critique

Teaching Philosophy: As an educator, I strive to meet each student's needs by developing a personal understanding of their aesthetic and artistic vision. This is achieved by creating a student centered classroom, emphasizing instruction through personal interaction. My goal is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation for fine art, while fostering a fun and educational environment that caters to a variety of different learning styles.

Material List: Note: I know materials can be intimidating and expensive so try not to get overwhelmed. For the purpose of this class, you can use 'student' grade materials and upgrade to 'artist' grade later for the best results, just make sure to check which one you are buying first. You can also buy a painting set or a brush pack that includes most of what you need. I use mostly synthetic brushes, and the paint brands I prefer are Golden (best artist grade, but the most expensive), Utrecht, or Winsor Newton.

- Pencil with eraser
- Metal palette knife
- Large disposable palette (12" x 16")
- Matte medium (small)
- Cup or jar for water
- Variety of brushes
 - 4-6 brushes of varying size and shape. I prefer flats and filberts for medium/large brushes and rounds for small detail brushes.
- Paint
 - If you already own similar colors to the ones listed below; bring them in before buying more. If you are on a tight budget, you can also start with a paint set that includes the primary colors plus black and white.
 - Titanium
 - White
 - Ivory
 - Black
 - Cadmium Yellow
 - Yellow
 - Ochre or Raw Sienna
 - Cadmium Red
 - Alizarin Crimson
 - Phthalocyanine Green
 - Phthalocyanine Blue
 - Ultramarine Blue
 - Burnt Sienna
 - Raw Umber
- Optional:
 - Apron
 - Acrylic paint is a nontoxic material but it will stain your clothes.
 - 2" beige masking tape
 - I will provide a roll to share.
 - Paper towels