

Color Matters supply list  
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I'm looking forward to exploring color with all of you. We will be doing a lot of mixing in different ways the first few weeks to understand the properties of color, how to harmonize it, and how to stretch limited palettes – leading to sophisticated, complex color use. We will then move into more personal ways of using color in terms of memory, mood, compositional factors, and design

#### Supplies:

These are suggestions – there is some flexibility. Feel free to email me if you have questions.

Good quality **sketchbook** around 8x10' or 9x12" – We will be 'collecting' color, making color notes, and playing with color relationships in the sketchbook in different ways throughout the term. Some people use a 3-ring binder, 8-1/2" cardstock, and a hole punch for this.

We will be primarily using paint in the class, but in the sketchbooks anything and everything goes – colored pencils, markers, gouache, collage, images saved from magazines or newspapers, etc. Use it as your repository for gathering and researching color relationships that you like, and that mean something for you in terms of memory, symbol or emotion.

Glue or tape for putting things in sketchbook

#### Paints:

You may use either oil paint or acrylic – I work with both and love them each for different reasons. Gouache is also beautiful to work with – it's one of my favorites – but good quality gouache is very expensive. For some of our exercises, the fast-drying property of acrylic might be beneficial and best. If you have oil paint only, I can make some acrylic paint available. There is some paint from our teen program that might be reaching its shelf-life expiration – this would be a good way to use it. The color choice might be limited – but there are the basics.

Most of you already have some paint, and I don't want you to have to purchase a lot of new materials or colors. Like everything else, the price of paint has skyrocketed recently. Part of our goal will be to see how far you can stretch limited palettes, and to find relationships and calibrations without a ton of paints on your palette. So I am suggesting you have one warm and cool of each primary (see some options below), a green or two, a violet, an orange (these last three are optional), a couple of earth colors, plus ivory black and white. I may bring an additional color some days for you to try, and you are welcome to experiment with other colors that you own as well. If at all possible, I recommend using artist grade paint (for example Winsor Newton) rather than their student grade (Winton). The pigment load is much higher in artist grade paint, and that makes a difference when mixing color. Student grade paint has lots of filler in it, and the tinting strength weaker as a result. However, student grade paint DOES work, and it is totally fine if that is what you have or can afford. It is definitely more affordable.

Some suggested colors – **you just need one of each primary color category**, and if you all have a slightly different palette that will be an interesting way to learn from each other. These are oil colors -- if using acrylic paint please get the equivalent – the name is sometimes slightly different, like yellow ochre is sometimes called yellow oxide in acrylic:

Yellow:

Cool – Lemon Yellow, or Cadmium Yellow Light, Hansa Yellow Light, Nickel Azo Yellow

Warm – Cadmium Yellow Deep, or Hansa Yellow Deep or Medium, Indian Yellow

Red:

Cool – Alizarin Crimson, or Quinacridone Red

Warm – Cadmium Red Light (or Medium or Deep), or Naphthol Red

Blue:

Cool – Cerulean Blue Hue, or Manganese Blue Hue, Sevres Blue, Prussian Blue, Cobalt Teal

Warm – Ultramarine Blue, or Cobalt Blue

Green (optional but helpful):

Cool: Pthalo Green or Viridian

Warm: Chromium Oxide Green

Purple (optional but helpful):

Dioxazine Violet/Purple

Orange (optional but helpful):

Cadmium orange

A few Earths:

Yellow Ochre -- needed

Burnt Umber -- optional

Raw Umber -- optional

B & W

Ivory Black

Titanium/Zinc White (Permalba is a good reasonably priced brand – buy big tube

Buff Titanium White

(I tend to use lots of colors as my whites – we'll talk about that!)

**Surfaces:**

For the **first few weeks paper** such as Arches Oil Paper, Canson Canva-Paper, gessoed watercolor paper, or similar will be what we work on. Any brand is fine – they are all different prices. Around 16x20" is a good size – we will sometimes cut that down smaller. (We'll be

starting with mixing and small abstract studies to understand color harmony, vocabulary and preferences.) We will also be painting some paper swatches for transcription collage (will explain!) – this is where acrylic paint will be useful. **After the first four or five weeks surfaces will be your choice** – paper, stretched canvas, canvas board, wood or Masonite board.

#### **Brushes:**

**An assortment** from what you have – it doesn't have to be a large assortment, but make sure they are not all too small – I'm happy to talk about brushes the first day – brushes are different for oil and acrylic paint, although some synthetics and blends can be used for both.

Palette knife – at least one, but two sizes can be useful – will need first day!

#### **Palette:**

Disposable palette paper pad is fine – large enough to mix lots of color

#### **Medium:**

This is very personal and you only know what you like by trying – Linseed oil is the most common for oil paint, although a lot of people like synthetic mediums like Galkyd or Galkyd Lite. They speed up the drying of the paint.

Matte, satin or gloss mediums are most common for acrylic, but there are many others – a medium is not necessary!

Cup for medium if you are using it

Solvent (for oil paint)– only Gamsol, and limited use! You will need two glass jars with lids if using Gamsol – I'll explain the two jar system – Solvent cannot be poured down the sink

Cup or jar for water if using acrylic

Roll of paper towel

Some people like to wear disposable gloves when painting – a good idea

Scissors or X-Acto knife

A grayscale chart can be very helpful for understanding value – this is the one I have:

Blick #: [04947-2500](https://www.dickblick.com/products/gray-scale-value-finder/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3DGray%20Scale%20and%20Value%20Finder)

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/gray-scale-value-finder/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3DGray%20Scale%20and%20Value%20Finder>

A color wheel can also be good to have – we will not be making one but it is good to look at one – there are lots to choose from – cheap is fine – or you can just look at one online

For the first day:

A few sheets of the paper you will be painting on

Black, White, Yellow Ochre, and two reds (a warm and a cool)

A pencil

Palette knife

Sketchbook