



Painting Light: Fundamentals of Oil Painting

Semester: Summer 2024

Days: Monday, June 3-July 22

Times: 1:00-3:00Pm

Instructor Name: Barbara Benton

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Course Description

This oil painting course will introduce students to the process of creating oil paintings that capture a strong sense of light in a variety of subject matter. Over the eight-week course, students will create four separate paintings as they are guided through the still life, the landscape, painting animals, and the portrait from a photograph. Instruction will focus on learning wet-on-wet oil painting techniques, understanding the basics of composition, conveying concept, and expressing individual artistic style. Those who have taken the class before will be guided in the continued development of their skills. For all levels of experience.

What will you learn?

Students will learn the process of direct painting, creating works that describe light with the freedom and vitality of the wet-on-wet method of painting.

Materials

Items can be purchased at Porch School and Art Supply, Jerry's Artarama, or online from dickblick.com. Many items can also be found at Hobby Lobby or Michael's.

- Oil Paint

- Recommended Colors (the "hue" version is fine):

titanium white, yellow ochre, cadmium yellow light, cadmium yellow medium, cadmium red light, cadmium red medium, alizarin crimson, sap green, viridian green, ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, cobalt violet, dioxazine purple, burnt umber, burnt sienna, ivory black

- Recommended Optional/Extra Colors:

cadmium lemon, cadmium yellow deep, chromium oxide green, phthalo blue, cobalt blue, permanent rose

- Refined linseed oil (small bottle)
- Small container for medium (small mason jar works well)
- Gamblin Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits
- Stainless steel "brush washer" or glass container with lid for solvent (a mason jar works well)
- 3" steel palette knife
- Tempered glass palette, paper palette, or wood palette (larger sizes work best)



- Soft bristle paint brushes in a variety of sizes
 - Affordable option: Gold Taklon long handle brushes in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, round size 1, as well as a variety of very small brushes for detail work
 - I use Rosemary Bravura long flat brushes
- Paper Towels or rag for wiping oil paint off brushes (old T-shirts can be used)
- 4 canvases, canvas panels, or primed boards, 11 x 14"
- Dawn dish soap (or other brush cleaner) and small jar for washing brushes
- Nitrile gloves (recommended)
- Ruler (at least 14")
- Workable fixative
- Pencil

Class Schedule

Class 1: Still Life, part 1. Bring supplies. Introduction and demonstration. Students will begin painting a still life set up in the classroom. We will discuss techniques for placing the subject in the composition, negative space, texture, emphasis, and balance.

Class 2: Still Life, part 2. Demonstration and discussion of various mark making techniques, painting loose, color temperature, and leading the eye around a composition. Students refine and finish still life. For next week, if desired, students bring a printout of a landscape they would like to paint, or they may use one provided by the instructor.

Class 3: Landscape, part 1. Demonstration and discussion of color scheme, mood/concept, and time and motion. Students paint underpainting.

Class 4: Landscape, part 2. Demonstration and discussion of edges, creating the illusion of distance, unity, and repetition. Students finish landscape. For next week, if desired, students bring a printout of an animal or pet they would like to paint, or they may use one provided by instructor.

Class 5: Animal, part 1. Demonstration of the grid method. Students create grid and spray fixative outdoors. Students begin underpainting. We will discuss color scheme, light, and shadow, and capturing the likeness.

Class 6: Animal, part 2. Demonstration and discussion of refining the features and how it creates emphasis, keeping other areas loose. Also discuss pattern and rhythm. Students finish animal painting. For next week, if desired, students bring a printout of a person they would like to paint, or they can use one provided by instructor.



Class 7: Portrait, part 1. Demonstration of the grid method and how to mix skin tones. Discussion of light and shadow, color temperature, and creating portraits that do not look like photographs. Students create grid and spray fixative outdoors. Students begin underpainting. We will discuss color scheme and work on likeness.

Class 8: Portrait, part 2. Demonstration and discussion of refining the features, choosing areas of emphasis, and movement. We will look at unity, balance and likeness and discuss concept in the portrait. Students finish portrait.