



Palette Knife Oil Painting

Semester: Summer 2024

Days: Tuesday, July 2 - July 23

Times: 1:00-3:00Pm

Instructor Name: Thomas Stotts

Contact Information: tsfinearts@hotmail.com

Course Description

Students will learn to create an oil painting step by step while learning the fundamentals of creating the entire painting with a palette knife. The techniques covered in this course include building a foundation with underpainting layers, working dark to light, in thick impasto layers. Students will discuss painting composition, color mixing, and use of thicker textural layers.

What will you learn?

We will use one of my palette knife oils as a model to paint together as I teach professional painting techniques to give you a system for future paintings.

Materials

- OIL Paints: Cadmium Yellow Medium, Yellow Ochre, Titanium White, Alizarin crimson, Ultramarine blue, Sap Green. (Windsor Newton Winton colors have larger tubes available. But get whatever brand or colors are available if these are not. Get an extra tube of white if available.
- Canvas - One 12'x16"
- One paper palette pad to mix paint on
- No brushes needed: (1) medium and (1) small Palette knives only. I recommend the knives that look like tiny concrete trowels, somewhat diamond shaped. No brushes or solvents needed.
- Some vine charcoal sticks, soft or medium. One or two sticks will be enough.
- Paper towel roll

The Firehouse will provide easels. I suggest Porch Art Supply in OKC, or any of the Michaels stores or Hobby Lobby for supplies.

Class Schedule

Class 1: A short talk about what we are going to do in class, how I demonstrate and how we progress together on the subject piece. I want you to follow along with me as we begin the painting, but also have the freedom to make your own decisions. I'll encourage you along the



way as a teacher but also as a coach, not just learning, but motivating. We start with freedom in the loose block-in stage and work as a group.

Class 2: Continuing the painting and roughing out the composition. We will then move to the intermediate stage, where we begin to tie into the proper composition, making decisions about where we are going with the piece as far as style and design.

Class 3: We will continue with thick impasto techniques as laid down with a knife.

Class 4: Continuing the painting and refining techniques. With continued layering of the painting to learn how to give your work a deep and professional look.

Class 5: We will work on how to repair mistakes so that you will have confidence to experiment, knowing that any wrong direction can be rescued with the versatility and user-friendliness of acrylic.

Class 6: Students will continue working on their paintings, some students will be able to begin another painting.

Class 7: Group discussion about paintings. Each student will get a chance to talk about their work and get to reflect upon their own personal choices and what makes their painting unique. Although I teach my style, I encourage students to put as much of themselves in the piece as they can.

Class 8: Finalizing your painting, refining elements to unify the image. We do this by finding any unfinished looking strokes, layers, details, and polishing them to a professional level.