

SUPPLIES

Note: key supplies are underlined.

PAINTS:

I recommend that you wait to buy paint until after the lecture given in the first class session.

Essential colors: Primary Red (it is closer to magenta), Primary Blue, Primary Yellow, and White
Many artists prefer Golden brand. The Golden brand primary colors listed below create clean (as opposed to muddy) mixtures, and are all organic, and therefore translucent.

- Primary Red (If using Golden brand, get Quinacridone Magenta)
- Primary Blue (If Golden brand, get Phthalo Blue [Green Shade])
- Primary Yellow (If Golden brand, get Hansa Yellow Medium)
- Titanium White

Additional colors:

(Note: I typically work with primary colors and white, but the colors listed below are very useful to have)

- Cadmium Red Deep or medium
- Ultramarine Blue
- Cerulean
- Viridian
- Sap Green
- Yellow Ochre
- Burnt Sienna
- Raw or Burnt Umber
- Black (preferably bone-black)

PALLETTE:

“Stay Wet” Palette

Since acrylic paint dries so quickly, palettes that keep paint wet are very useful – preventing unnecessary remixing of colors, and lost paint. Masterson and Windsor & Newton make Stay Wet Palettes - you can find them in many art stores and craft stores. The palette has a flat sponge on the bottom that keeps the semi-permeable palette paper above moist, and a lid that seals it off.

You'll need (these are often sold together):

- One Stay Wet palette (Size 16” by 12” recommended)/ Palette Paper/ Sponge

Alternatively, if you want to begin with a simple large plastic palette, you can. If paint drying becomes frustrating, you can purchase a stay wet palette at a later time.

BRUSHES :

Bristle Brushes:

Get some that are approximately the size of a...

- Middle finger (a flat and a filbert)
- Pinky finger (a filbert and a round)
- Much smaller than your pinky finger for details (flat or round)

Synthetic Brushes:

- 2 inch flat brush (I use a cheap one to quickly lay in color for underpaintings)
- ¼ inch wide flat brush
- A round brush half the size of your pinky finger

GESSO :

Gesso is a base layer that prepares a surface for acrylic paint. Many canvases that are available in art and craft stores are already prepared with gesso, but, having gesso enables you to prepare other surfaces.

- You'll need white gesso that is water soluble. (Liquitex makes a nice gesso.)

THE SUPPORT :

There are many options for “supports,” which are what you’ll be painting on. Supports must be gessoed, which seals the surface to accept the paint. I recommend using something around 11” by 14” to begin. Smaller supports (like 9” by 12”) can be limiting.

Support options:

- Matt Board
- Plywood or other wood boards
- Masonite (you may be able to purchase a large sheet at a home improvement store and have it cut into smaller sheets there for you.)
- Pre-prepared boards for painting
- Canvas (pre-prepared or self-prepared)
- Heavy paper like water color paper

If you are a beginner, I recommend buying budget friendly supports, since they'll allow you to practice with a little more freedom and less pressure.

MEDIUMS :

Matte medium is used to thin paint, improving the flow without losing body or changing the physical property of the polymer. (Water is used to clean the brushes between colors.)

Optional other mediums include: Gloss medium (which gives a shine), and Slow dry medium (you can guess its use), and a myriad of others. We'll discuss other mediums at a later point.

PAPER TOWELS OR RAGS:

I typically cut rags (like old t-shirts) into small squares (about 6" by 6"), but you may prefer to use paper towels. Some artists recommend Viva paper towels.

CONTAINERS:

You'll need two jars or cups. I prefer clear containers. A cup around 16oz is a good size for water, and a smaller one will work well for mediums.