Painting Supplies

Note: key supplies are underlined.

1. PAINTS:

Absolutely essential colors: Primary Red (magenta), Primary Blue, Primary Yellow, & White

Many artists prefer the Golden brand, which is high quality paint. However, in my experience, mid-level paints (like Liquitex Basics) are still effective and a more cost effective option for beginners. The Golden brand primary colors listed below create clean (as opposed to muddy) mixtures, and are all organic, and therefore translucent.

- Primary Magenta (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

Helpful additional colors:
(Note: I typically work with primary colors and white, but the colors listed below are very useful and will allow you to achieve neutral tones/earth tones more easily.)

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

2. PALETTE:

You can choose to purchase either a “Stay Wet” Palette or a simple flat plastic palette.

- Stay Wet Palette: Since acrylic paint dries so quickly, palettes that keep paint wet are very useful. They prevent unnecessary remixing of colors, and lost paint. Masterson and Winsor & 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, and the Palette Sponge

- Alternatively, if you want to begin with a simple large plastic palette, you can. (I’ve found the standard circular ones to be too small). If rapid paint drying, or the need to remix colors become frustrating, you can always purchase a stay wet palette at a later time.
3. BRUSHES:

Synthetic brushes work well for acrylic. The following brushes will be helpful to have:
- A round brush half the size of your pinky finger
- A filbert and a round about the size of your pinky finger
- A flat and a filbert about the size of your middle finger
- A 2 inch flat brush

4. THE SUPPORTS/PAINTING SURFACES:

There are many options for supports/painting surfaces. They 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. 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.

Support options:
- Canvas (pre-prepared or self-prepared)
- Matt Board
- Plywood or other wood boards
- Masonite (you can buy a large sheet at a home improvement store and have it cut down into smaller sheets by the staff there.)
- Pre-prepared boards for painting
- Heavy paper like watercolor paper

5. GESSO:

Gesso is a base layer that prepares a surface for paint. Many canvases that are available in art and craft stores are already prepared with gesso. If you aren’t purchasing pre-gessoed supports, you will need white gesso that is water soluble. (Liquitex makes a nice gesso.)

6. MEDIUMS:

Matte medium is used to thin paint, improving the flow without losing body or changing the physical property of the polymer. Optional other mediums include: Gloss medium (which gives a shine), and slow dry medium, and many others.

7. PAPER TOWELS/RAGS & CONTAINERS:

I typically cut rags (like old t-shirts) into small squares (about 6” by 6”), but you may prefer to use paper towels. Viva paper towels are strong and durable.

You’ll need two plastic jars or cups. A cup around 16oz is a good size for water, and a smaller one will work well for mediums.