

## Painting with Acrylics

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*This is a beginner class. Acrylics are popular because they're water-based (no odor, easy clean-up) but unlike oil paints, they dry very quickly (retardant will be supplied in case you like working slower). Learn how to create form using light and color contrast, fundamental color mixing, and composition. Do not expect to get a "How To ...In Ten Easy Steps." Instead, expect to explore, discover, and develop you own way of seeing and doing. To that end, you'll be introduced to three different styles of painting: transparent watercolor, opaque oil, and hard-edge.*

**MATERIALS** Purchase materials at any local art supplier such as Michael's, Reuel's, Utrecht, or Phillips Gallery. Some stores offer a discount if you buy 3 or more tubes of paint; some offer student discounts.

**PAINT** one each, 250 ml tubes/jars of burnt umber, cadmium red medium, yellow oxide, phthalocyanine or aquamarine blue, hooker's green, and titanium white. Paint does not have to be expensive or the highest grade. Any brand will do. For example, Liquitex has a BASICS (student grade) starter kit with primary colors.

**BRUSHES** A "value pack" of brushes is excellent as long as it contains large and small "bright" (flat, square edges) and "round" type brushes. The package should state they are suitable for use with acrylic paints. If you like to paint large (9"X12" or larger), buy large brushes. Likewise, buy small brushes if you paint small (8"X10" and under). A 1½" brush is good for washing large areas with color; a ½" brush for detail.

**PALETTE** Because acrylics are water-soluble, any white surface – plastic, china, glass panes (tape the edges) – or commercial palette pads will do. Paint will dry on them but will release when wet (except for the pads) so palettes can be used over and over.

**CANVAS** Start with a couple of commercial canvas pads, which are flexible papers that are coated to use with oils and acrylics. Try 2 different sizes – one you're accustomed to using, such as 9"X12", and a smaller size that will push you out of your comfort zone. Or if you prefer, bring canvas panels.

**Tin can or mayo jar to hold rinse water. Paper towels for texturizing and clean-up.**

**OPTIONAL** Palette knife ( plastic, metal, or credit card); natural sponge; old toothbrush for texture; masking tape for hard edges.