

**Course:** *Independent Study: Intermediate to Advanced Oil and Acrylic Painting*

**Instructor:** Mary Diman

**Tips for success:** Paint the painting you've always wanted to paint. Think through your idea, your composition, your canvas size and shape, your image (and image source, including photo cropping if necessary), and your color options before you begin. This discipline pays off. Your beginning drawing and underpainting will dictate much and when you get to the stage in the painting where it's just you painting, your organization and planning will be rewarded.

**SUPPLY LIST**

**Paints:**

Oils—Colors: A basic traditional recommended palette consists of cadmium red, alizarin crimson, yellow ochre, cadmium yellow medium, ultramarine blue, cerulean, viridian, burnt sienna, ivory black and titanium white. You also might want dioxazine purple, cobalt blue, permanent green, raw sienna, and/or burnt umber. As an experienced painter you probably have colors you are comfortable with. Make sure your color palette consists of a warm and cool red, yellow, and blue, some basic earth colors and white and black. You should then be able to mix most any secondary and tertiary color and its tints and shades.

Acrylic—A basic recommended palette of colors in acrylics is the same as the oil paint.

**Canvas or Support:**

Oil paint can be applied to many different surfaces—canvas, wood, paper, hardboard (masonite), or gessoboard—however, it's important to prime the painting surface (with gesso) to prevent protect it from the acids in oil paint. You can also use pre-primed boards or commercially primed and stretched canvas or gessoboard.

Acrylic can be applied to almost any primed or unprimed surface depending on the style and preference of the artist.

**Mediums:**

Oil painters need solvent for their paint for thinning and clean-up—odorless mineral spirits are recommended as the safest contemporary option. Linseed oil or an alkyd-type product can be mixed with solvent to make a blending medium for oil paint. Those using water-soluble oil paints do not need petroleum solvents. There are water-soluble

oil paint mediums available for use with those paints. Both oil and acrylic brushes should be cleaned with soap and water at the end of the painting session.

Acrylic painters can use acrylic matte or gel mediums if they like them. This is a personal choice. Plain water will usually work very well as a medium with acrylics.

### **Brushes:**

Natural hair brushes, both “sable” types and bristle types, can be used for both acrylic and oils. Synthetic sable and synthetic bristle brushes also work very well. The size of brush you like is usually dictated by the style of painting you do and the size of your paintings. My only recommendation, if you work at an average size, is that you get some “round” brushes and some “filberts” and some “flats”. Rounds will help with detail work and filberts are wonderful for every style except the most detailed work. Flats can be used for applying larger areas of paint. You don’t need a lot of brushes, perhaps 4 or 5, but they should be in good condition and preferably medium size rather than too small. You will probably use more than one style of brush in each painting.

### **Palette/painting knife:**

A palette knife is used to blend the paints on the palette, a painting knife to paint with. A painting knife is optional. A palette knife is very useful.

### **The palette:**

You need a surface on which to squeeze out and then mix and blend your paints. A palette should be flat, lightweight enough to be portable, smooth and light colored, and water-or solvent-resistant. Commercially available waxed-paper palette pads work well for oils or acrylics. Acrylic painters have the problem of keeping their paints wet while working, and commercially designed palettes have been designed for that purpose with a mixing area in the center and cups around the edge to hold the paints. As an option, acrylic painters can use a muffin tin, plastic (Styrofoam) egg carton, etc. to hold paints after they have been squeezed from the tube, and then mix and blend them on a standard palette like oil painters. Some acrylic painters like to mist their palette with water while working to keep the paints wet.

### **Also needed:**

Best quality paper towels; jars or cans to hold your medium and solvent or water while you work; soap or liquid detergent for final cleanup.