

Materials and Reading List – The Strong Start

Plein Air - You will need an outdoor easel.

Palette - a nice wood palette or the one that comes with your french easel or pochade box; please do NOT use white paper palettes. If you want to use paper, use the grey ones (available at Dick Blick online).

Panels - You can use whatever substrate you prefer, although I don't recommend using cheap cotton panels. I recommend that you use linen panels. These can be either alkyd primed (my fav) or lead primed. If you like a more absorbent surface get the alkyd primed, if you are used to a slicker surface, then the lead primed is a better choice.

Raymar has a good line of linen panels and delivery is usually pretty quick.

You will need at least 10 panels. I would get them in sizes 9 x 12, 11 x 14 up to 12 x 16. Don't go over 12 x 16 unless you are experienced.

You are also welcome to use Arches Oil Paper.

Paper towels - Viva

Lint free rags - I buy them in a bag from Home Depot. I use these in my painting process, so be sure to have these.

Thumbs/Value Studies/Notan

We will be doing some exercises doing thumbnail sketches, 3 - 4 value studies and Notan (2 values). Here is what you need:

1. Prismacolor Markers- double ended Black
<http://www.dickblick.com/items/21342-2001/>
2. Set of neutral grey markers – Prismacolor makes a good set
3. Paper for markers – Bristol pad 11 x 14, smooth
<http://www.dickblick.com/items/13329-2005/>

Some students prefer to do their value studies in gouache or oil. That is fine too especially if you are in the studio.

You are also welcome to use a digital drawing app like Procreate for this work.

Pencils - 2H, 2B, 4B (Staedtler brand recommended)

A good sketchbook

Please use a utility knife for pencil sharpening. Olfa brand recommended.
<http://www.dickblick.com/products/olfa-300-standard-knife/>

Value scale - I recommend the Munsell fan deck 37 value scale. It is pricey so I am not requiring it. But it is essential tool for serious students.

Recently I discovered a less expensive but accurate alternative to the expensive Munsell scale. You can order them here:

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Munsell-Accurate-Value-Gray-Scale-for-Artists-Designers-Quilters-etc-/223003792036>

(Note: the picture at this link is unfortunately inaccurate and makes the scale look sort of yellow; it isn't). This is definitely the most cost effective and accurate scale around at the moment.

Paints

This class is going to emphasize working with a transparent underpainting, then simple direct painting. I know some of you are interested in indirect painting and I will touch on that, but this palette is a direct painting palette.

If you already have a palette you are comfortable with then you may use that, BUT you will need a transparent pigment for your underpaintings. I strongly recommend Transparent Earth Yellow (Gamblin). Burnt Sienna is too chromatic and raw umber is not ideal either.

Here is a limited basic palette that will work for this class:

Titanium-Zinc White or Flake White Replacement (Gamblin)

Warm White (Gamblin)

Hansa Yellow Light (Gamblin)

Chromatic Black (Gamblin)

Viridian (optional)

Indanthrone or Ultramarine Blue (Gamblin or other brand)

Transparent Earth Yellow (Gamblin)

Burnt Sienna (Gamblin or other brand) or transparent oxide brown or red (Rembrandt)

Vasari Shale (highly recommend) or Raw Umber

Williamsburg Neutral greys (6, 8) or Gamblin Portland greys (light, medium)

Williamsburg Neutral greys (2, 4) - optional

Medium

I use Liquin (Original). This helps dry your paint which is important when you are working over your underpainting.

Brushes

You are welcome to use what you have and prefer.

I use a variety of brushes. Typically, I use flats and filberts.

I like mongoose brushes for underpainting and the first layer of paint: then bristle brushes for later thicker paint. It is also nice to have a few small sable brushes (size 1 or 01) for details as well as a watercolor flat wash brush for glazing or applying transparent paint.

Here are a few economical brands:

Bristles: Robert Simmons Signet brushes, flats or filberts, sizes 4, 6, 8

Wash: Robert Simmons Sapphire watercolor brush- wash ½" or ¾"

My preferred brushes:

Master's Choice (badger their mongoose substitute) and Ivory (synthetic bristle) – Rosemary Brushes 4, 6, 8 flats or filberts

Reading List

Required:

Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting by John Carlson (available from Amazon). – Carlson is considered the "bible" of landscape painting by many contemporary landscape painters.

Recommended:

Birge Harrison, *Landscape Painting*

Asher B. Durand, *Letters on Landscape*

(you can get both of these together in one book available from Amazon)

Deborah Paris, *Painting the Woods: Nature, Memory and Metaphor*