

Drawing + Painting the Figure

Suggested Materials List

Instructor: Thomas Van Auken

Materials List

Students will purchase materials. I recommend shopping locally at **Plaza**, and they will have a copy of this list on file.

Drawing Materials:

- 1 pad newsprint paper, 18x24"
- 3 (minimum) "Peel n Sketch" charcoal pencils, hard, medium and soft
- 3-5 pieces of vine charcoal. The pieces about the thickness of a finger, not the little skinny sticks.
- 1 Pencil sharpener

I discuss materials in class. If in doubt, showing up with just the above for the first class is fine.

- 1 kneaded eraser
- 3 Conte' Crayons OR General's Charcoal (compressed charcoal), black, white and sanguine
- 3 graphite drawing pencils, 4B, 2B, and HB.

Optional: sketchbook, drawing board (big enough for 18x24" pad of paper).

Other materials to be discussed in class.

Stuff to paint on:

Primed canvas. Loose is fine, stretched or canvas boards are ok too, but for some classes we'll do up to three quick studies, so it may not be economical. I suggest a pad of primed canvas, at least 14". Make sure it is REAL canvas, not "canvas paper".

Stuff to paint with:

There's a zillion kinds of brushes, I talk about them in class, but for starters, have a selection of both coarse and fine, rounds and flats. In my class you probably won't need anything too huge, at least starting off. Synthetic blends are fine to start off with. Easiest thing is to get the set made by Princeton, available at Plaza. They will know which one. You will need one bigger chip brush, at least 3".

Stuff to mix paint on and with:

Your choice of the following...

Best option is a **glass palette**. You can make your own with some white or middle grey foamcore backing, duct taped to some glass, or buy one. Plaza

sometimes has glass palettes that fit inside the sealable plastic palette box that they sell. (Also a worthwhile accessory, but optional.)

You could also use a pad of **palette paper**, get the larger size. Cheapest option is freezer paper, but you will need to cut it to the size you need, and have some way to stick it down (masking tape, NOT blue).

Any palette you use is fine, as long as it is non-absorbent, smooth, neutral colored (white or grey) and big enough to work on.

You will also need a **metal palette knife**. Do not get a giant palette knife for a small palette. I like the diamond-shaped ones.

Mediums and solvents:

- Half pint of **refined linseed oil**
- Pint of **odorless mineral spirits** - Odorless mineral spirits are sold under various trade names, but if you get the ODERLESS gamsol, it's the right stuff for sure.

Actual Paint:

Get the smaller (37 ml) tubes to start, with the exception of white. As you learn which colors you use a lot of, start to buy the larger tubes of those. **Windsor** and **Newton's** student grade (Winton) is fine. Expensive paint like **Williamsburg Paint Company's** stuff is great, but spending 5x as much on paint is not going to make you a 5x better painter. You know what will make you a 10x better painter, at a fraction of the cost? **BUYING A SKETCHBOOK and USING IT.**

Here's the list for my classes:

- Cadmium Red Medium
- Cadmium Orange
- Cadmium Yellow Light
- Permanent Green Light
- Cerulean Blue
- Ultramarine Blue
- Dioxazine Purple
- Cobalt Violet
- Alizaron Crimson
- Black: Mars or Lamp, whichever is cheapest
- Titanium White, 300ml tube

Any other colors are optional. You may want to get some Yellow Ochre and Phthalo Green.

Other Stuff:

- Metal containers for solvents, ie: coffee cans. I don't like glass (because it breaks and sometimes models are barefoot in the room), and certain plastics will melt in the solvents we use.
- Cotton rags. Just cut up an old t-shirt. NOT paper towel.

Optional:

- A larger drawing board with built in clips is very handy.
- Wear clothes that you can get paint on. It WILL happen.
- Pliers to open the old paint tubes that you have neglected for way, way too long.