

BEGINNER SUPPLIES FOR ABSTRACT PAINTING

If you already have supplies, bring it. Otherwise use the below information to get you started. Once comfortable you can add any other tools, materials, and / or what tickles your fancy that adds to your creative spark. Over the years, I have moved from brushes to spatulas, squeegees, small rakes etc (example). If you are a beginner, I suggest you begin with the following information.

Oil Brushes come with a long handle and are generally not expensive. You will go through brushes quickly and brushes will need to be replaced often. This is because of chemicals and canvases used. For cleaning brushes, use Turpenoid. This is environmentally friendly and won't cause any chemical problems. When finished for the day, clean these brushes with soap and water. To thin and mix your paint, use Liquin - a drying medium used to add to oil which speeds up the drying process.

You can paint on Gessoed Canvas, other surfaces are optional. (check with an Art Supplies Store such as Curry's, DeSerres, or Gwartzmans (Toronto only) and /or Prepared Masonite. If using Masonite for Oil / Acrylic you may need to lightly sand the surface before applying Gesso. Gesso can also be purchased at an art supply store.

Use old clean rags. You will need a good supply.

SUGGESTION: Wear Rubber Gloves when painting in oil to protect your skin.

For Acrylic: You can use Brushes meant for Oil or you can use Brushes created for Acrylic. I recommend that you do not get the best quality because, again, your brushes will not last for a very long time. For Cleaning your Brushes, water is all you need. When finished for the day, clean these brushes with soap and water. Generally Acrylic paints dry quickly and you may need to purchase an extender for Acrylic paints.

The surface you paint on can vary from a heavy weight paper (for Acrylics), masonite, canvas or other materials. Check what's available at an art supplies store.

Do not use a lead pencil to sketch in your portrait subject matter. Lead will eventually come through and become visible in your painting over time.

Do not work too small. Anything upwards of 16" x 20" is good. Larger is better.

Easels are supplied by OAC. A table easel is also good to begin with.

BRUSHES

Begin with a #18 filbert for covering medium areas. # 6 - # 3 for small and detail areas, # 24 flat for background and large areas.

COLOURS

You will need lots of white. I use Titanium White (which is a warm white) And Zinc White which keeps colours brighter. In all my paintings I use top quality paints. This is because the intensity of the pigment is strong and paints last longer. But no black. I find black out of a tube too harsh and I mix colours to get a black I prefer.

My favourites: Cadmium Yellow, Alizarin Crimson, Permanent Blue to begin with. Don't forget White. Cadmiums are costly and you can begin with substitute colours in the same family. This is the basic material list to begin your portrait painting.

More personalized items can be added as you proceed.