

Exploring Acrylic Painting Term 4 2023

Tutor: Lindy Whitton

This 4 week course is a continuation of the Term3 class and is suitable for those with limited experience. More advanced acrylic students are welcomed and will be challenged to try new techniques as well as consolidating their existing skills.



Session structure

Sessions are 2 hours.

Each lesson I'll demonstrate a different technique, or techniques, for using the very versatile medium of acrylic paint. As the course progresses the weekly lessons will provide a set of building blocks to create strong paintings with good composition, contrast and technique.

The first hour will be a demonstration followed by some short exercises and the second hour you will be able to work on a larger painting.

We'll continue exploring acrylic painting basics including:

- discussion of various brands and types of acrylics
- colour mixing
- how to prepare painting surfaces
- use of different mark making objects eg brushes, palette knives, found objects etc
- exploration of different acrylic painting mediums
- demonstrations of varied subjects by the tutor using different acrylic painting surfaces
- storage and framing tips and advice
- safety in the studio

We'll also cover general painting concepts:

- developing observational skills
- understanding composition
- using dynamic contrast
- becoming comfortable with tonal values
- using colour effectively
- introducing texture

You can find out more about Lindy here:

www.lindywhittonstudio.com

www.youtube.com/lindywhittonstudio

www.facebook.com/lindywhittonstudio

Materials

The following pages outline the materials you will need and where to buy them.

Materials List

- some thick paper acrylic/oil sketch paper is best
- acrylic paints
- charcoal or pencils for sketching
- rags for cleaning your brushes
- a rigid surface (eg mdf board, sheet of foamcore) to attach paper to
- masking tape or bulldog clips for attaching your paper to a board
- sketchbook or paper for planning sketches and notes
- brushes
- a palette of some sort (eg white plastic plate, plastic or china palette)

Suggested materials buying guide

As with any art materials you will notice an improvement in your work when you use artist quality acrylic paints and brushes. If you will be buying paints and brushes for this class I suggest you choose a few colours of a good brand rather than a lot of a lesser brand. The same goes for brushes.

Acrylic paints

Good quality brands : Atelier Interactive (Artery and Officworks) and Golden Open(Adart)

Good budget brands Mattise Heavy Body, Amsterdam student grade and Chromacryl Student

Suggested starter colours in small tubes – these will be enough to create most of the colours for you will need for any realistic painting. It is fine to get a colour that has HUE after its name if you are buying the artist quality paints (Golden and Atelier). They are cheaper manmade versions and will work fine. If you already have some similar colours there's no need to rush out and buy these exact ones.

Starter colours

Burnt Umber
Ultramarine Blue
Cadmium Yellow Light
Alizarin Crimson Permanent
Titanium White

Other useful colours:

Yellow Ochre
Raw Umber
Cadmium Red
Phthalo Blue (Green Shade)
Burnt Sienna

Palette: A palette for mixing colours and then keeping your paints moist between sessions is a great investment . They are generally called Stay Wet palettes and can be bought online or at Adart or Artery - BUT you can easily make your own by placing a damp kitchen sponge in a shallow plastic container that has a lid. Place a piece of baking paper on top and then your paints. Once the lid is on you can store it in the fridge between painting sessions to keep the paint fresh.

Suggested brushes Choose a few different shapes and sizes in a good quality synthetic brand. A good starter set is :

- 1 x 1 inch flat wash brush
- A size 6 and 8 Flat or Bright brush
- A size 4 and 6 round brush
- A size 8 filbert

If you enjoy painting large you should buy larger brushes.



Quality brand :My favourite acrylic brush brand is Rosemary and Co Ivory series – you can buy at Adart or direct from them online. They keep a good point and edge, are not too stiff or too soft and are a great workhorse without breaking the bank.

Budget brand: if you're on a strict budget try the packs of acrylic brushes by Mont Marte Gallery series. The one pictured is usually available from Shiploads or Kaisercraft and they work and last surprisingly well as a starter set. I would recommend the one that has 5 brushes included (1 x Detailer 2, 1 x Flat 5, 1 x Flat 10, 1 x Flat 15 and 1 x Glaze 20).



Supports (what you'll be painting on)

You can paint on so many different surfaces with acrylics. Here are a few options so just choose what you have already or your favourite option.

Paper: *Acrylic /oil sketch paper*

Acrylic/Oil sketch paper pads- Officeworks, Artery, Adart
Large sheets of oil/acrylic sketch paper – Adart and Artery

Canvas: *Lot's of different options available*

- Canvas pads- thin canvas but has the texture you will get in thicker canvases. The cheaper ones really absorb the paint and are not really worth it. Go for a good brand at one of the art shops. Eg Canson, Art Spectrum
- stretched canvases in various sizes- any art shop or online store – Officeworks have a good budget range
- unstretched 5m rolls of cotton canvas in various widths from 24 to 36 inches -Artery (I don't like Adart cotton canvas)

Wooden Panels

- DIY - mdf or masonite cut to size, sealed all round and gessoed
- Premade flat wood panels from art shops or online
- Cradled wood panels from art shops or online or DIY if you're handy.

