

PORTRAIT ESSENTIALS

Multnomah Art Center

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This year-long class will progress from drawing to monochromatic painting in oil or acrylic (fall term), painting with a limited palette using acrylic or oil paint (winter term) and painting with acrylic or oil using a chromatic palette (spring term). Topics include composition, technique and materials. Deepen your portrait skills with discussion of classic and contemporary masterworks, drawing the structures of the head, gesture and facial expression. The following is a brief description of what will be covered:

Fall Term

Topics include composition, technique and materials. We will transition from pencil drawing to Aux Quatre Crayon which is drawing on toned paper using four colors (white, red, brown and black). We'll finish the term with painting several studies in monochrome with oil or acrylic. This is great opportunity to learn the art of the portrait using a variety of materials and approaches. Designed for beginner and experienced alike as instruction is individualized. Demos and plenty of model time will help you put theory into practice.

Winter Term

We'll pick up where we left off in Fall term by painting with a limited palette in just four or five colors. This is an excellent way to develop your painting skills while working with an uncomplicated palette that nonetheless yields beautiful color and harmonies. Continued emphasis will be understanding structure and gesture to inform and strengthen your work.

Spring Term

Build likeness and structure with paint! Using a chromatic palette we'll continue expanding on our exploration of color, composition, paint handling and more.

Materials for Drawing:

A variety of pencils (HB - 6B)

For aux quatre crayon: pastel pencils (white, venetian red, burnt umber, black)

Kneaded and hard Eraser

For aux quatre crayon: several sheets of mid-tone drawing paper - beige or gray

Drawing Pad 18"x24"

Drawing Board

Knitting needle to use as an angle checker and plumb line.

Materials for Painting (Acrylic or Oil)

Color For Monochromatic Studies: Burnt Umber

Other Paint Colors:

titanium white ***
iron yellow oxide or yellow ochre ***
cadmium or hansa yellow
iron red oxide or burnt sienna ***
venetian red or cadmium red or cadmium red hue
alizeran crimson
cadmium yellow or cadmium yellow hue
burnt umber
raw umber
raw sienna
chrome oxide green or viridian
ultramarine blue ***
ivory black***

*** The colors in this palette are known as the limited, dead or Velazquez palette. This limited selection of colors are enough to create a portrait painting. Working in a limited palette simplifies the learning process and also encourages you to interpret color as well as to work creatively within limits. So four colors plus white are all you need if you're looking to minimize your expenditure on materials.

Brushes: A variety of synthetic or hog bristle **filbert** brushes from small to large.

Mediums and cleaners:

- For cleaning brushes: odorless mineral spirits (artist grade only which means do not use the hardware store variety) Safflower oil from the supermarket also makes an excellent and inexpensive toxic free cleaner.
- Liquin, Gamblin's Neo Meglip, or linseed oil as a painting medium.
- No Turps or other strong aromatics.
- Please use only metal cups to hold your mediums for painting or cleaning.
- Do not transport any materials in glass jars!

For Acrylic Painters:

Synthetic brushes work best. There are a variety of mediums to experiment with but if you stick to the basics all you need is water.

Other Supplies

- A value scale, view finder, and knitting needle.

- Canvas: 16"x 20" or larger.
- Canvas paper for studies.

Optional:

- 4" x 4" piece of black plexiglass with its backing intact.
- 4" x 4" piece of red plexiglass.