

Natalie Featherston- Materials List /Oil Painting Workshop - ARA Boston, July 10 - 2024

INTRODUCTION:

My workshop for this year is "Painting Textures in Still Life and Trompe L'Oeil." Please bring whatever inspires you along this theme to paint in class. Items with textures such as wood, glass, metal, paper, fabric or fur would be excellent choices. Simple compositions are encouraged as we only have five days together, and you should be prepared to have a drawing ready for transfer by the end of day one.

Traditionally, trompe l'oeil features items hung on a wall or board, so if you choose a composition like this please bring a panel made of any material you like to use for your set up. Example: If you were going to paint a horseshoe hung on an old piece of wood, this is the old piece of wood you'd use for the set up. However, you aren't limited to this, and setting up a composition more like a still life with depth of the picture plane is fine, too.

I'm also offering a new painting program called Paint Along where we work from photo reference of one of my compositions. I'll also make you one of my custom oil ground panels to paint on, or you can use your own substrate. I'll demo each stage of the painting step by step and show the techniques I use in my own practice. This is designed for artists that are new to oil painting or who want to take some of the stress out of the workshop experience - it's especially good if you're traveling and don't want to pack a complicated painting set up. It simplifies everything and puts the focus on painting right from the start. Please let me know if you'd like a panel no later than July 1st. There is additional information from ARA Boston or myself that describes the Paint Along in detail with images, suggested hues, and palette organization.

WHAT TO BRING:

-A smooth panel or canvas of your choice, prepared for paint. You can buy Ampersand boards prepared for painting with a gesso ground at most art supply stores. Artefex panels also offer a wide range of surfaces for oil painting.

-Oil paints: Bring what you have and we can go from there. I'll discuss color mixing strategy and palette organization and will offer suggestions on which colors you might consider adding to your arsenal, as well as list of the paints and brands I use.

A basic oil painting kit should have white, burnt umber, cadmium yellow light, cadmium orange/red, cadmium red deep, thalo blue, thalo green, yellow ochre, burnt sienna and ivory black. Additional hues would be a dioxazine purple, ultramarine blue, alizarin crimson, quinacridone magenta, sap green, raw umber and a cadmium orange medium hue.

-Oil painting medium of your choice: I prefer Chelsea Lean Medium and Italian Wax Medium (Maroger), but also like Gamblin's Galkyd Lite which is easy to find. The only brand of Maroger you should buy is the Venetian Wax Medium from Classic Mediums - it's the closest to the original made by Jacques Maroger. <https://classicmediums.com/shop/ols/products/venetian-wax-medium-5oz> You are welcome to try mine in class to see if you like it before purchasing.

-Odorless mineral spirits or solvent: Gamblin's Gamsol is a good choice. Bring a clean jar to save and recycle spent solvents.

-Paper towels and/or a lint free rag

-Brushes: I prefer an assortment of bristle types and sizes in rounds. For example, I usually block in with a natural bristle in size #6, then move to a synthetic #4 Monarch (Windsor and Newton). Some of my favorite detail brushes are the cheap Jerry's brand Ebony Splendor in a #0 and WN Scepter Gold II rounds in a 000. We will talk about brushes—just bring what you're comfortable with and already enjoy using.

-Palette knife for mixing paint: I love the Holbein 1099 S Series Japanese steel blade No.39, several shapes and sizes are available.

-Palette cups or small jars for solvent and medium

-Palette: I prefer a sheet of glass backed with cardboard and grey duct taped edges, since glass is easy to clean with a razor scraper. Bring what you're comfortable with; wood or glass are my preferences, although there are many good choices out there.

-A few sheets of tracing paper at least the size of your panel to make a drawing for an oil transfer. I like to buy a roll and cut off what I need as it's more economical.

-Basic drawing supplies: Pencils, erasers, vine charcoal, mahl stick or plumb line if you use one. We will make simple line drawings on tracing paper for transfer to panel. Just a simple pencil will also be fine, bring whatever you like to use for drawing.

-Masking tape, Blue painter's tape and a T-square are helpful. I will also bring these items so no need to purchase if you don't already have them.

If you have questions about what to bring, I am happy to answer them. Email me at nfeatherston@msn.com