

James Meiklejohn:

Oil Painting for Beginners, Portraiture and Life painting

Paints and Equipment List

Paints

All paints come in either “Artists” quality; more expensive genuine pigments or “Students” quality cheaper substitute pigments or less genuine pigment and more filler. With some of the colours there is little difference between the two qualities, generally the brighter the colour the more it is worth getting them as “Artists” quality, but many professional artists use a mixture of both qualities.

Colours

37ml tubes Students ranges Daler Rowney “Georgian” or Windsor & Newton “Winton”

Yellow ochre, Burnt Umber, Titanium White, Burnt Sienna, Ultramarine Blue, Raw Umber, Alizarin Crimson, Cadmium Red, Cadmium Yellow, Lemon Yellow.

Good but non-essential colours; Raw Sienna, Cerulean Blue, Prussian, Viridian Green, Ivory Black

Brushes

Traditionally bristle hogs hair brushes are used for oil painting, they give more texture but are harder initially to use with finesse. Nylon acrylics brushes work very well with oil paint and easier to use for beginners. Artists often use acrylic brushes to start a painting and bristle to finish it.

Sizes and shapes

Flat longs in Acrylic range (and could have same in bristle hog’s hair too) Rosemary & Co brushes “Shiraz” range (excellent) and students Hogs hair (cheap and good); No. 2, (about 5mm wide) No. 4 (about 10mm wide), and maybe a No. 6 (about 15 mm wide Small round pointed detail nylon No 1 (about 2mm wide).

Supports

Surfaces to paint on Traditionally canvas or gesso wood board (and even copper or zinc plates) but for the beginner these are expensive especially if bought ready-made, Ready-made canvas boards are good, more reasonable in cost cheapest to buy are oil sketching paper pads A3 size, Rowney Georgian, Windsor & Newton, Jacksons are good makes for all these Thin 3mm to 6mm MDF board once primed with acrylic gesso is a very good and very cheap surface to work on. I will be preparing some of these and showing you how to do this, very simple.

Herrings Art Shop, High St Dorchester, Online Suppliers; Jackson Art Supplies, for almost everything, huge range, Cass Art, good range as well, Rosemary & Co Brushes, very good quality and cheap brushes.

Palette

Grease proof paper, A3 or bigger board, masking tape, white spirit and lots of rags.