

Session 4:

# Exploring Oil Painting

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Your Home Public Library, Johnson City NY

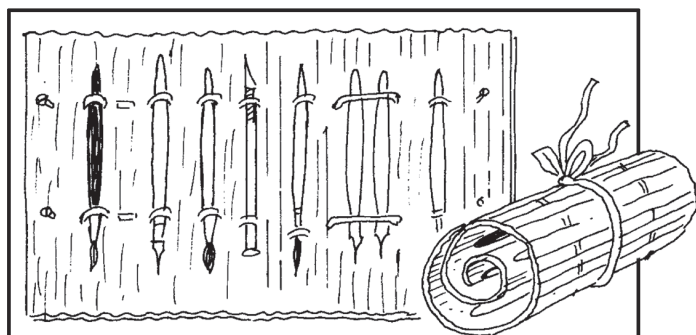
<b>MATERIALS:</b>	basic paint colors*
palette knife	paper towels
brushes	painting medium
wiper rag	Murphy Oil Soap
blocked-in painting	soap cap

## \*Basic palette (paint colors)

- Titanium white
- Cadmium yellow light or medium
- Cadmium red light or medium
- Alizarin crimson
- Ultramarine blue
- Veridian green
- Burnt umber

## Medium (to help move your paints around)

- Use either M. Graham Walnut Alkyd Medium (provided in class) OR my equivalent formula:  
2 parts walnut oil: 1 part Liquin
- TIP: DO NOT use any non-drying oil such as mineral/baby oil, OR citrus-based solvents, for mediums, underpainting, or even for cleaning your brushes. Not only are they more toxic than their “natural” labels would lead you to believe, they -- and your painting -- will take weeks, or even months, to dry.



*An old bamboo mat or place mat with brushes and pens neatly laid inside can be rolled and tied. A thread or rubber band can be laced in and out of the top and bottom of the mat to hold everything in place.*

from *Studio Tips for Artists & Graphic Designers*, by Bill Gray

## Preparation

- Before handling paint, massage protective high-glycerin moisturizer into hands and wrists. If you wash your hands before stopping painting, apply moisturizer again.

## Highlights, shadows

- Apply darkest darks and lightest lights, using moderation.
- Make decisions on values, hues, and composition based on what your painting needs, along with what you see in front of you.
- Don't hurry the process -- be patient with yourself and your work.

## Cleaning up

- When finished with your painting session, scrape any leftover UNMIXED paints into a small air-tight container and mix them all together with your palette knife, for a “**mother grey.**” Use this on your palette next painting session, to mix harmonious greys, to tone down colors, or for shadows. (Do not get medium in your mother grey mix, as it will set up.)
- To clean brushes, first wipe thoroughly with paper towels or newsprint, then fill a bottle cap with Murphy Oil Soap, and take everything to the sink.
  - ▶ Saturate each brush with the liquid soap.
  - ▶ Swirl a brush in the palm of your hand, and swipe it back and forth in your hand, following the brush's shape.
    - ▶ Holding the ferrule (metal part) of the brush and squeezing the brush hairs between your thumb and the side of your forefinger, firmly squeeze as much soap as possible out of the brush while reshaping the brush.
    - ▶ Rinse under running water.
    - ▶ Re-soap, swirl again, and repeat until soap suds squeezed from the brush, and the brush itself, appear clean.
    - ▶ After rinsing, rap the brush on the edge of the sink to shake out excess water, and carefully

reshape the brush. Let dry lying flat, or with brush hairs in the air, handle in a jar or other container.

▶ TIP: You can also use the Murphy's for a hand soap, and as a pre-laundry treatment on any paint that you get on your clothing as well.

- Take the panel tray off your easel and fasten to an easel leg with the velcro strap. Fold the legs together, and place it in the easel cart. Put your painting and supplies in the small supply room.

### Supply / Materials Ownership

#### YHPL's / MINE

- easel
- #2 pencil
- viewfinder
- clipboard
- tubes of paints
- odorless mineral spirits
- disposable palette
- paper towels
- painting medium
- Murphy Oil Soap
- soap cap

#### YOURS TO KEEP

- canvas panel / painting
- set of brushes
- palette knife
- wiper rag
- small lidded plastic containers (mother grey, medium)
- color wheel\*
- other handouts\*
- paper supply bag

*\*also available for download at [www.glendablake.com](http://www.glendablake.com)*

### MORE RESOURCES:

#### ***Dick Blick / Blick Studio***

- <http://www.dickblick.com>  
*My favorite art supply distributor*

#### ***North Light Shop***

- <http://www.northlightshop.com>  
*Purchase books, DVDs, downloadable videos*

#### ***The Artist's Magazine / artistsnetwork***

- <http://www.artistsnetwork.com/the-artists-magazine>

*I read this magazine cover to cover every month. Inspiring and informative.*

#### ***Dover Books***

- <http://doverpublications.com>  
*Great source of inexpensive art book reprints.*

#### ***Fine Arts Society of the Southern Tier (FASST)***

- <http://www.fasstny.org/>  
*Friendly group of artists from amateur to professional levels. Workshops, exhibits, and comradery.*

#### ***Broome County Arts Council***

- <http://www.broomearts.org/>  
*A clearinghouse of information on arts happening about town, along with workshops, opportunities.*

#### ***My own website/blog***

- <http://glendablake.com>  
*Blog ramblings about all sorts of things artistic -- work in progress, painting techniques, exhibits, arts events -- as well as information about me, links to sales and teaching venues, and portfolios.*