

Session 5:

Exploring Oil Painting

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Your Home Public Library, Johnson City NY

MATERIALS:	basic paint colors
palette knife*	paper towels
brushes*	painting medium
wiper rag	Murphy Oil Soap
painting*	soap cap

** These items are yours to keep.*

*Everything else stays at YHPL
or with the instructor.*

Preparation

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

Session 5: Finishing the painting

- One of the most difficult parts of painting is knowing when a piece is finished. You don't want to overwork, removing any spontaneity, but want to be satisfied with how everything works together. Whether in the end the painting looks exactly like your subject is not really important. It is a painting, and stands on its own.
- Give yourself leeway to declare it finished, then decide after looking at it for a day or two that it's not quite there, and work on it a bit more. (For my own experience with this phenomenon, see my blog at <http://glendablake.com/2013/10/02/down-to-the-wire-with-unlikely-dance/>)

Varnishing...

We won't use varnish in class -- it's used to equalize the reflective values of a painting, and to protect it -- but here's a source of varnishing information: <http://liamrainsford.com/varnishing-oil-paintings/> (I don't endorse his painting method, but his information on varnishing is very good.)

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.
- Take your painting, brushes, palette knife, and mother grey mix home!

You're more than welcome to take this course again.

The next *Exploring Oil Painting* course is starting on July 20 and skipping August 10--so, July 20, 27, August 3, 17, 24.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

Thank you for painting with me!

