

AIMEE ERICKSON

OIL * PAINTING MATERIALS LIST

PAINTS

This list is for reference; you don't have to have every color on here, and certainly not all on your palette at once. Don't be surprised if I have other colors as well

- Titanium-Zinc White (Gamblin)
- Genuine Naples Yellow Light (Vasari. Very expensive, has certain irreplaceable qualities; not required but frequently inquired about)
- Cadmium Yellow Light (the old standby)
- Cadmium Orange (Gamblin's is lovely)
- Indian Yellow (an orange-leaning transparent yellow, it has gorgeous tints; can be added to darks without sacrificing transparency)
- Yellow Ochre (
- Transparent Earth Red
- Terra Rosa (so nice for flesh)
- Cadmium Red Light or Naphthol Red
- Alizarin Crimson (I still prefer the old, non-permanent one)
- Ultramarine Blue (so reliable)
- Cobalt Blue
- Prussian Blue (the predecessor to Phthalo, and has a blacker quality. A favorite)
- Phthalo Turquoise
- Phthalo Green (especially if you are painting bottle glass. There is no substitute)
- Raw Umber (from Old Holland; it has a golden quality unique to raw umbers, and is excellent for an average-sunlit quality in canvas tone)
- Chromatic Black (Gamblin. It's a two-pigment black. Single-pigment carbon-based blacks are also fine; in mixtures you will see the difference)

A useful two-pigment combination (plus white: you always get white):

- Burnt Sienna (or other earth red)
- Viridian (or a black)

For a wide-range limited-palette triad, use:

- Cadmium Lemon
- Quinacridone Red
- Phthalo Blue from Gamblin's 1980 series.
- White (you always get white)

BRUSHES

Brushes make brushstrokes, which is what makes a painting. If you want a one-click set, I suggest the David Boyd Jr Starter/Workshop set from Rosemary. Silver Grand Prix Flats and Filberts (get the long-handled ones) are terrific; size depends on how big you want to paint. 2,4,6 for workshops. The long egberts I use are from Richeson or Princeton.

PALETTE

Something to mix your paints on. A wooden palette (you can make one out of 3/16" birch plywood) cleaned repeatedly with linseed oil makes an ideal smooth surface for mixing. Glass or plexiglass is also good; tape a neutral color paper to the back. If you prefer a disposable palette get the gray one from Richeson. *Please don't use a white palette; it causes difficulty in judging values.*

SOLVENT & MEDIUM

A **solvent** (turpentine, traditionally) dissolves and thins wet paint; we use it to clean brushes and only in small quantities as a medium. Use odorless solvent (Gamsol or turpenoid) and a stainless brush washer with a basket and a gasket lid that clamps on.

A **medium** is used to change the consistency of the paint. Gamblin's Solvent-Free Gel is recommended.

SUPPORTS

A **support** is a surface to paint on (often canvas, or muslin, or panel), and a **ground** is the primer, usually gesso, used to coat the support to prepare it for painting. A **tone** is a very thin layer of paint applied to the ground prior to starting the painting. Use a little solvent and paint to cover the canvas, then use a paper towel to remove excess and create an even tone.

- Paper (any kind, including sketchbook paper or mat board) is an excellent and inexpensive support if treated with shellac (see [video](#)). Perfect for in-class exercises or low-risk experiments.
- My favorite support is homemade muslin panels (see [video here](#)).

Size and quantity of supports depends on the painter—sometimes you'll want to do a sustained study and sometimes several starts. Prepare for both.

PALETTE KNIFE

A palette knife, or painting knife, can be used for mixing and for applying paint. A three-inch offset blade with a long, graceful shape is the most versatile. Keep it clean: scrape dried paint off with a razor blade.

PANEL CARRIER to transport wet paintings

PAPER TOWELS & trash bag

PORTABLE EASEL (unless the venue provides easels)

MISCELLANEOUS Spring clamps. Bungee. A

baseball cap is sometimes useful even in a studio setting to shield your eyes from light. Snacks.

BOOK *PLEIN AIR TECHNIQUES FOR ARTISTS* by Aimee Erickson. Available at most booksellers.

**If you're using a different medium, please bring comparable supplies in your medium.*

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