Visual Art Classes

Course

**Title:** Painting Green and Clean: Oil and Water Do Mix!
Program # 3454-17-LAAS
8 Fridays, September 30 - November 18, 2016, 9:30 am - noon
Humanities Building, Room 7121, 455 N Park St.

**Instructor**
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A welcome note from your instructor:

Thank you for signing up for my “Painting Green and Clean” class. Because some of the solvents used in oil painting can be toxic to some painters, being familiar with alternative mediums can be helpful. Additionally, acrylics can come in handy when oil paints simply are not an option, like when painting murals, furniture, or on outdoor surfaces.

I believe that there are no wrong approaches in drawing and painting, but there are certainly conventions and tendencies that have stood throughout time. I will focus on learning to see and understanding visual phenomena, as well as becoming familiar with your medium. Please use my advice as a filter to run your own process through, and integrate these techniques into your method to fulfill your personal vision. I look forward to meeting each of you and giving you some of the tools that have worked for me and seeing how you implement them on your journey.

Tips for success:

Have an open mind.
In order to learn anything, you have to be willing to try new things and to step out of your comfort zone. Success doesn’t happen without failure, and if you’re afraid to fail, then you will be limiting the possibility of your personal growth.

Practice painting before the class.
Working on a few paintings prior to the class will be immensely valuable in that you will naturally feel more fluent with your materials. Additionally, stepping into this class with a foundation and some recent experience will inform you as to what questions to ask, and to put some of the new information into context.
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Study master paintings.
If you know what you like, and why you like it, it will be much easier for you to make skillful, rhythmic paintings with clear goals in mind.

Show up ready to work.
Painting requires all of our mental faculties. When you are fully attentive and immersed, your paintings will be filled with a sense of clarity, energy, and purpose.

Most of all, have fun with it!
“Pretend you are dancing or singing a picture. A worker or painter should enjoy his work, else the observer will not enjoy it.” - Robert Henri

Materials Fee: (Fees paid directly to instructor for course materials provided by instructor)

  Basic fee: None

  Optional materials for purchase: None

Supply List (Bring your own) Note: All supplies are suggestions. Mention of a brand or retailer should not be considered UW-Madison endorsements. Students may make substitutions.

PLEASE NOTE: TRADITIONAL OIL PAINTS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THIS ROOM

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

- **PAINTS**
The brand of paint that you chose doesn't matter. If you chose to use water mixable oils, make sure that you are not purchasing regular oil paints. A basic palette might include titanium white, raw umber, burnt umber, yellow ochre/raw sienna, cadmium yellow, cadmium red, cadmium orange, burnt sienna, alizarin crimson, cobalt blue, ultramarine blue, ivory black, and viridian.

- **CANVAS**
For this class we will be making 8 paintings, so we'll need at least 8 supports, somewhere between 9"x12" and 18" x 24". You can use anything for a support.
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Canvas paper works well and is already prepared. You can also purchase canvas boards or stretched canvas. If the canvas doesn’t have a coat of acrylic gesso on it you will need to prime it yourself with gesso. You can also buy a panel or board and coat it with gesso.

- **BRUSHES**
  A variety of brushes is preferable, namely filberts and rounds. I would purchase a few filberts made of hog hair, maybe a size anywhere between 3-6, and some small synthetic rounds for details. I also really like softer brushes - sable, mongoose, or badger, and would recommend a few of those, maybe 1/4” wide each.

- **MISCELLANEOUS**
  - Container for water - whether you choses to use oils or acrylics, you will need a cup for water
  - Palette - There are a number of different types of palettes. Disposable sheets and glass will each work for both mediums. If you are using water mixable oils, a wooden palette would also work. Nothing smaller than about 12’-13” in diameter.
  - Paper towels - The more absorbent the better. Cloth rags can also work well.
  - Palette knife - The ones that are symmetric, shaped like a diamond might be best, but any one will do.
  - Spray bottle (acrylic painters only) - helps keep the paint on the palette open

**OPTIONAL SUPPLIES:**
  - Acrylic matte or gloss medium (acrylic painters only) - can be nice to increase the flow of paint while maintaining its body.
  - Palette cups - These are nice to put a small about of medium in while painting. They attach to your palette, but don’t have to.
  - Apron, or clothes that they don’t mind getting paint on Small handheld mirror
  - Hat, visor, or baseball cap - I will explain this on the first day of class
  - Pencil or charcoal and kneaded eraser - Sometimes its easier to do a drawing on the canvas before going in with paint.