

# materials list

Acrylic Painting

cloud house arts

Instructor: Susan Falcon-Hargraves

602-722-8132

Email: [luna34@icloud.com](mailto:luna34@icloud.com)

Welcome to Cloud House Arts!

Below you'll find a materials list for new student painters.

**If this is your first experience with painting or with acrylics**, I would strongly suggest that you take advantage of what we affectionately call our **Boot Camp** exercises. This short series of guided studies will acquaint you with:

- 1) various ways to handle acrylic paints
- 2) the painting basics of value
- 3) composition
- 4) and color.

If you need more information about this prep course please call me so we can discuss your goals.

Beginners please come to your first class prepared with:

**Paints: Heavy body Liquitex Tube Acrylics preferred**

**Burnt sienna**

**Mars black**

**Titanium white**

**Gesso** - a small container

(Essentially a primer, gesso is painted over any surface to prepare it for painting by making it less porous. Most pre-stretched canvases are pre-gessoed, but canvas boards are sometimes unpleasantly slick). Later on, you can use gesso to prepare any non-canvas surface you'd like to try, like masonite or wood board.

**Gloss medium OR GLAZING MEDIUM:** Mixed with the paint to create a glossy finish, to create sheer glazes, or to allow the paint to flow more freely.

Try to avoid purchasing the "student grade" version of these paints if possible - the Liquitex ones are called "Basics" - they are less expensive, but the low level of pigment in their composition makes it harder to cover the canvas effectively.

**Canvas:** For the first few exercises, a set 11 x 14 or so cardboard canvas boards should do just fine (some stores have them in packs of three).

**Palette:** This is a highly personal choice. Some people like the convenience of the tear-off disposable paper palette pads, which are fine to get started with. Personally, I love my trusty old white enameled butcher pan. The white background allows me to see colors accurately, the enameled surface cleans up easily and it's practically indestructible. Do **get the largest palette you can find** – since acrylics dry so quickly, you'll need all the space for mixing color that you can get.

**Brushes: Bristle (not synthetic) brushes - I prefer BRIGHTS - in sizes 4,6,8,and 10 or 12.**

Best brand is Robert Simmons, but Princeton also makes some very good brushes that are not quite so expensive. Remember: we are using thick paint, and soft brushes made for watercolor etc will not stand up very well.

**Paper Towels**

**Plastic bucket for water** (say the size of a big yogurt or cottage cheese container)

**Apples and bell peppers** (2 each, varying colors)

---

**Later in your studies** you can start collecting more colors to work with, although you won't need them right away. Here are some of my favorites.

Suggested color selection

Collect at least two from each category, preferably three. You'll be able to sample additional colors from the teacher's collection and add them to your paint box over time.

Reds: Cadmium Red Light, Cadmium Red Medium\*, Alizarin Crimson.

Greens: Chromium Oxide Green\*, Brilliant Yellow Green, Cobalt Green

Yellow: Turner's Yellow or Naples Yellow, Cadmium Yellow Light\*, Yellow Orange Azo\*

Blues: Ultramarine Blue\*, Cobalt Blue, Light Blue Permanent

Purples/Violets: Brilliant Purple\*, Quinacradon (used to be called Acra) Blue Violet, Light Blue Violet, Prism Violet\*

Browns: Burnt Umber

## EXTRAS

Retarding medium: mixed into the paint, it keeps acrylics from drying as quickly (for those of you accustomed to oils).

Matte medium: Mixed with the paint to create a matte finish. Also can be used to soften colors and to create certain spatial effects.

If you find you like to work in detail you'll want at least two small **angled shaders** on hand as well: **Loew - Cornell** shaders are my favorites, in the 3400 series, but **Princeton** also makes a good set of shaders as well.. Shader sizes 1/8, 10/0, and 12/0 are in my collection, but you can do just fine using only the first two.