

# **MAI – Painting & Drawing from Observation**

In the great French school tradition which produced artists from Manet to Monet, hearkening back to the Dutch masters, up through the Impressionists, and also a staple of today's finest art schools, painting from observation is a tried and true method of art academia as a foundation for anyone interested in pursuing a painting career, or just as a hobbyist.

This class will cover the basics of putting down on the canvas what the eye takes in from the natural world. Inherent aesthetics such as color, light, hue, composition, and tone will be taught. Abstract aesthetics such as rhythm, harmony, pattern repetition and texture will also be pursued. Technical aspects of perspective, volume, and form will be taught. The class will also pursue art history and philosophy as a matter of due course throughout each period.

## **Supplies**

### **Painting**

Water Soluble oils are recommended, but acrylics may be used if you cannot find the water soluble oils. Water soluble oils should be available from Keith Coldsnows.

### **Colors**

Cerulean Blue Hue (optional)  
Ultramarine Blue (Prussian Blue may be substituted)  
Cadmium Red Light Hue  
Cadmium Yellow Light Hue  
Viridian (optional)  
Naples Yellow (optional)  
Burnt Sienna (optional)  
Alizarin Crimson (optional)  
Titanium White

Other colors may be recommended, but not required, on a per student basis as class moves forward.

Water Soluble Linseed Oil  
Water Soluble Varnish (if available, optional)

## **Brushes**

I recommend the use of inexpensive hogs bristle brushes designed for oil painting. They should be the kind with long handles.

Number 2 Round  
Number 4 Round  
Number 10 Round  
Number 4 Brilliant  
Number 10 Flat

It is my opinion that brushes represent a personal choice. These are recommended, but if you have experience please feel free to bring brushes other than these if you are comfortable with them.

Also, a palette knife and palette will be required. I recommend a disposable paper palette. Also bring some empty jars for water if you have them.

## **Canvas**

You will need at least one medium sized canvas approximately 16" x 20", stretched canvas is not necessary, canvas board will be more than satisfactory for our purposes. You may also paint on paper if you choose, but it should be poster board with a large enough drawing board to clip it to. You may also use pieces of masonite that you will need to prime with gesso before class if you desire.

## **Other**

You will need some small cloth towels or rags. I use old kitchen towels myself. You will also need something to adequately carry your supplies in. Also, **DO NOT** wear clothes you are afraid to get dirty or smudged.

## **Drawing**

Small and thick vine charcoal  
Charcoal paper  
Drawing Board  
Tape or Push Pins  
Chamois (like you would use to dry a car, can be purchased at any hardware store)

**Note\*** you only need supplies for drawing or painting, whichever you choose. You do not need both sets of supplies. Do not buy the most expensive supplies you can find. We are learning the basics and making masterpieces is not our goal at this point. We aim to make mistakes and learn from them ☺