

ACRYLICS

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO ACRYLICS

Suppliers?

(Worthing): The Range, The Works, Smiths, Cass Art (art shop in Brighton), Lawrences (art shop in Hove). I would avoid paints from the Works as they are poor quality

Online suppliers:
www.jacksonsart.co.uk

Which Make?

You can buy in a set which is often a good way to start, try: Daler Rowney System 3, Daler Rowney Cryla Acrylics Liquitex Basics or Sennelier. Winsor & Newton are also good

Which Colours?

If you buy in a set make sure they have a white. If buying individually then you will need at first

White, Red, Yellow, Blue and then additionally green, pink and orange

Also...

Acrylic Matt Medium* - this comes in a jar usually but does vary - very useful



Starting out with Acrylics

There is a bewildering amount of paint to choose from so I am simplifying and trying to keep costs down initially. There are a few things that can really improve your painting from the beginning.

Acrylics are 'water-based' meaning that you add a little water to your brush before painting. Note: do not let acrylics dry out on your brush and try to avoid wearing your best clothes. It can be tricky to remove.

Acrylics dry quickly so getting a surface to mix colours on is good idea. There is something called a 'stay-wet' palette (available in all shops listed above), you can also make your own (see tip)



Surfaces to paint on

In class most people tend to paint onto watercolour or acrylic paper. This is usually taped onto a small board (or use the back of an old sketchbook) Size of paper is A4 or slightly bigger

- you can also paint onto canvas boards of similar sizes or cheap canvases (the Works have good deals)
- paper is easier to store if space is an issue!

Brushes etc.

- soft acrylic brushes, either a small set or just 1 or 2 in size 4 or 9 rounds (don't buy sable or very expensive brushes, equally the very cheap bristle brushes are not good either) you need one with a good point and one that is fairly soft
- the end of the brush gives you a particular mark so a round brush gives you a point and a flat one gives you a straight block shape etc.
- yoghurt pot for water
- pencil, rubber

Make your own stay wet palette

- piece of kitchen parchment paper or kitchen roll
- ice-cream tub with lid or similar
- dampen the kitchen roll, place the parchment paper over the top - squeeze paint onto this, use the lid to keep wet for a couple of days

Acrylics are fun

Once you have your equipment you will want to get going! Before you come to class give them a test drive :)

- put out a bit of colour, use your damp brush to pick up a bit and then start to paint onto the paper - see what happens
- add a bit of Acrylic Matt medium* on to the palette and mix a little into the colour - paint onto the paper
- practice the above with all your colours, then practice putting one colour over another - enjoy!

Next? Ensure you are signed up to the weekly newsletter. We choose a different subject each week and sometimes this is in watercolours (you can choose if you wish to work solely in acrylics it is not a problem). You will be asked to bring along the image stated in the Newsletter or by a particular artist. If you have a computer tablet why not bring that along with the image on it. Alternatively print out the image from the Internet then that along.

Bring all of your equipment with you to class, you will receive tuition and lots of support

best wishes Jane

ps make good use of your local Library art section, Internet and YouTube to help you understand more