

Materials List
Miniature Oil Painting Workshop
Diane DuBois Mullaly

Paint

We will be working with a limited palette, using six colors and white. This will help keep the colors in your painting fresh and harmonious! You will be able to mix any color you wish from these six colors plus white. I use M Graham brand walnut oil based paint, in these colors:

1. **Azo Yellow**, a bright clean medium yellow (very similar to Cadmium Yellow Light, but not toxic and much less expensive).
2. **Indian Yellow**, looks like orange (very similar to Cadmium Yellow Deep, but not toxic and much less expensive).
3. **Naphthol Red**, bright, clean red (very similar to Cadmium Red Light, but not toxic and much less expensive)
4. **Anthraquinone Red**, deep wine red (very similar to Alizarin Crimson, but light fast).
5. **Ultramarine Blue**, deep sapphire blue.
6. **Prussian Blue**, deep dark blue that leans green.

I use Gamblin brand oil for my white:

7. **Titanium Zinc White**, a neutral white.

In some paintings, it might be necessary to invite a visiting color, which is allowed on the palette for a specific reason in a specific painting:

8. **Viridian**, deep emerald green (to be used *sparingly*, only to flavor greens that are mixed from the first six colors, to knock back reds, or to use in skies).
9. **Dioxazine Purple**, deep true purple, helpful in florals.
10. **Quinacridone Rose**, deep magenta pink, helpful in florals.

You are welcome to use your favorite brand of traditional or water based oil paint. If you don't have a favorite, for miniature painting I really like M Graham walnut oil based oil paint. I like the rich saturated pigments and the soft feel of this paint. If you already own another line of paint, please feel free to use it. If you prefer other colors, you may bring them, but I do insist on a limited palette. Please email me if you have questions or need to discuss the colors you will be using at dunepainter@earthlink.net or dianessag@aol.com.

With M Graham paints, you can clean up using a traditional solvent (odorless mineral spirits, like Turpenoid or Gamsol) or you can paint solventless, using walnut oil medium as your brush cleaner.

Medium

I normally do not use a medium when painting in miniature. If you feel the need for a medium, you can use M Graham Alkyd Medium or Liquin – either will add body to the paint, give it a sheen, and speed up drying time. For water based oil paint, use a comparable medium the same brand as your paint.

Brushes

I use:

- An inexpensive #2 bristle flat to sketch in my basic composition.
- #2 flat synthetic sable Silver Ruby Satin #2501-2 to block in large areas of color.
- Royal & Langnickel Royal Sable Long Handle Brush, #5590 Langnickel Size 2 and 4, for loose painterly strokes and to build up paint if you want to. (available at jerrysartarama.com)
- An assortment of inexpensive synthetic sable liners and rounds for moderately detailed areas. Right now I am painting with Loew-Cornell brand size 0 and 10/0 liners, and 3/0 round.
- For the smallest details, I use Loew-Cornell 7000 Round 18/0 and Loew-Cornell 7350 Liner 18/0, available at Dick Blick, search under La Corneille.

Bring whatever you own in sizes 1-3, since they will just be used to block in. The size 0 and smaller liners and rounds are essential. You can find them at most online art suppliers.

Palette

Bring whatever type of palette you are comfortable with. If you don't have a preference, I use a 12" x 16" Masterson Palette Seal, which is a white tray with a blue lid that seals tightly. In the bottom, I put a 12"x16" palette liner also from Masterson, which is like butcher paper. On top of that in one corner I fasten (duct tape on the bottom) a 9"x12" disposable palette pad, which is my mixing surface. I squeeze out my pure colors from the tube along the two sides of the palette liner that are still exposed once the palette pad is in place. I will demonstrate this in class.

Palette Cups

If you are using a medium, you will want a small cup to put it in, which clips onto or sits on your palette.

Palette Knife

When painting miniatures I use:

A plastic trowel shaped palette knife – the tip is great for scratching in details.

A metal trowel shaped palette knife for paint mixing. My favorite right now is a Liquitex brand "Small Knife 1".

Panels

I paint on gessoed museum board, cut to 4"x 6", 5"x 5", 3 1/2 x 5", 3"x 4", 3" x 3" and 2.5"x 3". Museum board looks like mat board, and is made of 100% rag, acid free, the same color all the way through. You will find it anywhere framing is done. Ask for scraps. You can also use gessoed hardboard (Masonite), or good quality gessoed birch panels if the grain is smooth, gessoed multimedia paper, gessoed vellum, porcelain, or Ivorine (synthetic ivory available at miniature art suppliers). I really like the "Art Boards Superior Quality Panel Gesso" brand of gesso. It is acrylic and has a lovely eggshell surface. You can also use Liquitex brand acrylic gesso. To make my panels, I cut them to size first, then using a 1" brush, give one coat of gesso to the back side of each panel, and two coats to the front. I paint the gesso on the front sides of my panels in random sweeping strokes, one layer over another. This gives the painting a beautiful surface. This gesso application will be demonstrated at the workshop. But please experiment at home and gesso your panels before the workshop, so they are ready to paint. They need to dry overnight before painting on them. It is not a good idea to paint miniature works on

canvas – the texture is too coarse, it makes tiny details difficult to paint, and the look of it distracts from the painting.

How to carry wet miniatures - Wet Painting Carrier

When painting in miniature, I adhere my little panel to a piece of 8x10 cardboard with a loop of wide masking tape on the back of the miniature panel. This makes it easy to keep the panel on your easel and also allows you to use an 8x10 wet painting carrier to transport your paintings. I love the HandiPorter cardboard carrier available at online art suppliers.

Brush Washer

You need a brush tank or washer that has a tight cover. A Silicoil works well and is inexpensive. Or bring whatever brush tank or washer you own, as long as it will seal tightly to keep your solvent from evaporating when not in use.

Solvent

To clean your brushes and thin your paint:

For traditional linseed based oil paints, please bring ODORLESS Turpenoid or Gamsol. For M Graham oils, you can also use the above, or M Graham Walnut Oil Medium.

Portable Easel

I find it works best to sit down when painting in miniature. I like my panel to be just about vertical, so it catches the light as it would if it were hanging on a wall, and at eye level so I can sit up straight when I paint (to prevent back fatigue). We are painting indoors with no breezes, so the panel can just rest on your easel ledge, it doesn't need to be well secured (as it would painting en plein air). If you own a portable easel, experiment and see if it will support a small panel in the sizes above. Make sure your easel has a ledge and a backing that will hold an 8"x10" panel.

Portable Light

It would be a good idea to bring an inexpensive clamp-on light to this workshop, like the ones sold in the paint section of the hardware store, along with an extension cord. Also bring a full spectrum light bulb. I use Phillips brand, available at grocery and discount department stores.

Paper Towels

Please bring a roll of paper towels. I use Viva brand, they're thick and absorbent.

Photos for Reference

I paint all my miniatures from photographs, and use my plein air experience to interpret nuances in light and atmosphere that a photo just can't replicate. Please bring photographs of subjects that interest you. If you have still life items you would like to use, please bring them. The Easton Studio & School will also have still life objects on hand.

View Finder

I often use a ViewCatcher brand viewfinder to help select a good composition within the photographs I use as reference. Well worth the \$6-7 investment.

Magnifying Glass

I do not paint under magnification, but do take a look at my paintings in progress now and then with a magnifying glass – to see if there are any gobs of paint or stray hairs or fuzz from my big gray cat that need to be lifted off the surface of the painting before it dries.

Trash Bags

Plastic grocery bags work very well. Sorry to not recycle them but at least they get used twice.

Reading List

I do not expect you to read all these books before the workshop begins. Most of these are books that I own and read again and again, along with a few titles that I have read bits and pieces of and look forward to reading in full.

How to Paint Miniatures, by Robert Hughes and Elizabeth Johnson (out of print, try www.abebooks.com or www.bibliofind.com).

Big Art Small Canvas: Paint Easier, Faster & Better With Small Oils, by Joyce Washor

The Art Spirit, by Robert Henri

Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting, by John F. Carlson

Composition of Outdoor Painting, by Edgar Alwin Payne

Perspective Drawing Handbook, by Joseph D'Amelio

Fill Your Oil Paintings with Light & Color, by Kevin MacPherson

Landscape Painting Inside & Out, by Kevin MacPherson

Hawthorne on Painting, collected by Mrs. Charles W. Hawthorne

Also Bring...

an open mind, your creative spirit, and your sense of wonder. We are painting little light-filled gems. Be ready to relax, get in touch with the painter inside you, think good thoughts, and have a lot of fun!

Online Suppliers:

Miniature Art Supply Specialist <http://www.miniartsupply.biz/>

Dick Blick www.dickblick.com

Jerry's www.jerrysartarama.com

Utrecht www.utrechtart.com

Cheap Joe's www.cheapjoes.com