

Portrait painting fundamentals

In this workshop you will learn the essential skills of painting a portrait from life.

We will focus on the idea of drawing with paint, creating a convincing light effect and turning form through values and temperature.

I will guide you to get a good likeness, a better understanding of the human face and a good conceptual understanding of how light works on a three dimensional form.

In addition you will learn proper handling of oil paint and a good approach to the materials used. You will receive a step by step approach that you will be able to use in your personal projects. For better understanding I will be bringing various examples of academically trained artists.

Materials:

All the materials can be bought at Gerstäcker or Bösner in Vienna

CANVAS:

35 x 30

I recommend Cleassens Canvas with oil ground, stretched on 35 x 30 stretcher bars
Otherwise any other support (like panel or board) with oil ground will do.

OIL PAINTS:

I recommend using professional grade oil paint, good brands you will find at Bösner or Gerstäcker are Old Holland, Williamsburg and Schmincke.

White: Lead white/lead white imitation:

(Old Holland mixed white no 2, Williamsburg Titan-Zinc White, Schmincke Zink-Titan Weiß)

Black: Ivory Black

Umber: Raw Umber, Burnt Umber

Red: Vermillion (imitations such as “Vermillion extra“ are fine) or Cadmium Red Yellow:
Yellow Ochre

Blue: Cobalt Blue

BRUSHES:

Good selection of filbert bristle brushes plus some rounds in a good range (4 – 16).
Generally speaking: the more the better.
Synthetic brushes are not recommended as they don't leave a sensitive mark.

MEDIUM CUP:

A decent cup for your medium, you can attach these to your palette.

MEDIUM:

Linseed oil

PALETTE PALETTE KNIFE PAPER TOWELS