

INFORMATION FOR PORTRAIT SEMINARS

Hi Friends,

I am sending this as a reminder of the materials we will be using in the portrait seminars. I am looking forward to our wonderfully varied paintings. The portrait seminars have become my favorite to teach, they are inspirational and exciting for both the students and for me.

The supply list is the same as always: white, cad. yellow lt., cad. orange, cad. red lt., bright red/ grumbacher red/or floral red, alizarin crimson, floral mauve, cobalt blue, ultramarine blue, thalo blue, chrome oxide green, thalo green (opt), sap green, grumbacher greenish umber, burnt sienna, yellow ochre, burnt umber, ivory black, and Richison unbleached titanium. We will have all these paints available at the class if you do not have them. Palette knife, wipe out tool, stylus, graphite (for tracing onto your canvas) and lots of paper towels will also be needed.

If you are working on a child's portrait, you will probably want to consider 8x10 (just the head), 9x12, 11x14, 12x16, 16x20 and for adult portraits, 16x20, 18x24, sometimes smaller for just head and shoulder portraits or possibly larger if you will be including more than one person and hands or more of the body. I want you to paint as close to life size as possible, **NOT LARGER THAN LIFE SIZE** for regular/classic portraits. **VERY IMPORTANT!!!!!!** Some photos are interesting enough to be done oversize or "poster size". What is important, is not increasing just a small amount over life size. It makes children look older and women too masculine. So if you want larger it must be quite a lot larger and fill up the canvas, most will go off the canvas and / or be painted on box canvases. It is a modern look, very appealing for many people not wanting to over decorate their home with portraits. If possible, you are expected to purchase your painting surface here. Most seminars I teach nationally require you to purchase your painting surface with them. I appreciate your support, it helps us keep the class fees reasonable.

Brushes: various sizes: Badger hair or sable, (especially in small sizes), I like small filbert or cat's tongue brushes for detail. I use bristles (especially 2,4,6,8 filbert) for scrubbing and blocking in. For both blocking in and detailing out, there are many synthetics on the market that are very good. My favorite Loew Cornel 797F, size 1,2,4,6, and 8. Small fan brushes, rakes, liners for detailing hair, fur, tree limbs etc... You need firm brushes for blocking in and softer brushes for detail work on wet canvases. If you have painted with me before, I always use the same materials. Only very, very good odorless thinner. I prefer the Quality Art brand that I have. Also **NO LIQUIN**, I am highly allergic to it.

Bring acrylics if you have them. If you need just a small amount of something you are always welcome to use our supplies. I often use acrylics in my underpaintings. Your choice, you do not have to use them.

Since you will be using your own photos to work from, here are some things to keep in mind. First **YOU CAN ONLY PAINT WHAT YOU CAN SEE CLEARLY!!!!!!! I CAN NOT SEE IN YOUR HEAD.** The only unsuccessful paintings that have been painted in my seminars have been from reference material that was not clear enough to see. When you are doing portraits from photos, make sure your photos are as good a quality as possible. If possible bring more than one photo of the person you are painting. Single light source, or good values. Have them enlarged the size you will be painting. If possible also make a black and white copy to see values. I use -2 and -3 black and white to give me better value pattern info. I encourage you to paint your portraits life size or just under. It is very difficult to get a likeness painting a head too small, under 3 1/2" to 4". If you can have your enlargements done before class it will enable you to do more paintings. If I do not do them myself, I have mine enlarged by Sylvia Rozell in Manchester, Ga. (I have included her info at the bottom of this letter). She is good and she can do it all. You can email her your jpeg or send your photo to be scanned. You could also use Staples or Office Depot, just make sure you can use their machines yourself or they can be very expensive. You will be making your tracing from your color copys since that will give you the best detailed info. **ALL COLOR POSTER COPIES NEED TO BE THE SIZE YOU WILL BE PAINTING.** You will be using a stylus, not a pen or pencil to trace your pattern onto the canvas since you need this same copy to paint from. If you are going to put your portraits (people) in an environment other than what is in your photo

you need to have additional reference material. In other words if you want to take a school photo and put your granddaughter in a garden, you will need photos of gardens. I have reference material and lots of examples of different portrait styles at my home, however for other national seminars you will have to provide your own. I will be starting each class with a demonstration painting to refresh your memory regarding the steps, palette mixes, etc.

There are some studios that will handle some of the info regarding paint supplies, canvases and enlarging photos differently. This is basic info.

If you need help with enlarging your material you can contact Sylvia Rozell in Manchester, Georgia at 706 457 2726 or sgrozell@gmail.com , Villiage Fine Art Printing. Sylvia is an top artist, she combines her artistic ability with photo / computer expertise to be the perfect help for you in getting the best resourse material for the classes. When your painting is done she can also make reproductions of your painting at a very low cost. Sylvia does printing for me and it is less expensive than I can do it myself. She has a professional giclee printer so she can do any printing and copying you need done.

This info is for all my classes.

Looking forward to new grande' adventures in painting this year with all of you,

Mary Carole

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