



alla prima Portrait Painting

Paint eye-catching portraits in oil or acrylic! This workshop will focus on key concepts related to portrait painting, and a working process to progressively finish a portrait study from life in three hours. Working with a limited palette of just four colors you'll learn:

- How to effectively block-in a painting.
- Accurately observe value and color relationships and mix equivalent analogies in paint.
- Simplified anatomy and understanding head construction in volumes and planes.
- Animating the pose and keys to capturing a likeness.

The class includes discussions of past and contemporary masterworks and the technical aspects of painting and materials. You'll benefit from working in a small focused learning environment with great lighting on both the model and your work station!

Register: <https://www.eduardofernandez.com/classesworkshops-2>

Supply List:

PAINTS (acrylic, oil & water-soluble oil): The limited palette of colors below, known as the Zorn palette, make it easier to create color harmonies and learn the basics of color mixing for flesh tones.

- Titanium White
- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Red Light
- Ivory Black

Tip: For a great primer or review on color go to *NAVIGATING COLOR SPACE*. ROBERT GAMBLIN'S 3-D animation of the color wheel that's interesting and informative! <https://gamblincolors.com/navigating-color-space/>

MEDIUMS:

- Mediums affect the consistency, gloss levels and drying times of paint. As a general rule do not use historical or traditional mediums containing **turps, damar varnish** or other **strong aromatics** in a class room setting.
- Most acrylic and oil paint brands carry their own line of mediums. (ie Liquin, Galkyd and Oleogel). Consult their online or in-store literature before selecting a medium. A simple and versatile homemade medium can be made with a 50/50 mix of linseed oil and odorless mineral spirit. Store in a small plastic container.

OTHER SUPPLIES:

- Brushes:** There's several styles of brushes. The filbert style brush is the most versatile (hog hair or synthetic equivalent). Sizes #2, 4, 6, 8 & 12.
- Solvent:** *Artist grade, not the hardware store variety*, odorless mineral spirits (*OMS*). Gamsol and Winsor Newton are popular brands. A solvent-free alternative to OMS for cleaning brushes is poppyseed oil. For more information about solvents and studio safety please go to Gamblin's website: <https://gamblincolors.com/studio-safety/studio-safety-create-without-compromise/>
- Leak-proof non-breakable solvent container:** for cleaning your brushes. <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/brushes-tools/brush-washers/petite-air-tight-brush-washer/petite-air-tight-brush-washer>
- Palette cup** to hold medium.

- Palette knife:** I use the knife shape (in photo) and highly recommend it.
- Paper Towels**
- Baby wipes** (absolutely great for cleaning your palette)
- Small Sketchbook, pencils & eraser.**
- Viewfinder**



SUPPORTS: CANVAS/PANELS:

- Stretched canvas or panels** varying in size from 16 x 20, 18 x 24 or 20 x 24.
- Alternative:** For studies I often use canvas cut from a roll and tape it to a 1/2" thick foam board that is 1" larger in size than the canvas I'm working on. Once dry I store paintings in a portfolio, great space saver!
- Gesso:** Applying one or two coats of acrylic gesso prior to class is highly recommended when using student grade canvas! This is not necessary for better quality or professional grade canvas.

Recommended:

Alla prima or " direct painting " means you'll be drawing with a brush so having some drawing experience is recommended. Being new to painting however is not a barrier to taking this class so long as you come prepared knowing some of the basics. Here's what you'll need to know:

- Know the basics of brush care and clean up. Understand what a medium is and how to use them for acrylic or oil. For color mixing tips view Gamblin's color space.
- Learn to travel with your materials by setting up and breaking down a few times prior to the workshop: squeeze out some paint, practice color mixing with your palette knife, add a little paint & medium to your brush, paint a little painting, take notes, clean up and store. :-)
- Keep things simple and bring only what you need. The studio is well equipped with good lighting and easel workstations with palette. The materials on this list should all fit nicely in a backpack and leave a free hand to carry a canvas.

- **Tips & Techniques:** <https://gamblincolors.com/tips-and-techniques/>
- **Studio Safety Guide:** <https://gamblincolors.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Studio-Safety-Guide7.21.16.pdf>
- **Navigating Color Space:** <https://gamblincolors.com/navigating-color-space/>



Things you'll learn and practice:

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| I. How to paint portraits using the Zorn limited palette. | II. How to start strong and block-in a painting. |
| III. Observational Painting: How to see color and mix it. | IV. Basic Head Anatomy and Proportions. |
| V. Big Shapes to Little Shapes: The secret to painting features. | VI. Principles about art and painting that are universal. |

My goal is to offer personalized instruction in a well equipped studio that's structured, fun and supportive. My strengths are that I like to simplify and make concepts about drawing and painting direct and attainable.

Please email or call if you have questions, thank you! :-)