Alla Prima Floral Sketch
Instructor: Devin Cecil-Wishing
Materials List

Flowers:

Students will bring their own flowers. It is recommended when you are choosing flowers to paint, to select flowers that will give you a clear sense of forms turning, with distinct, individual petals for us to look at. Things like roses, peonies, calla lilies, tulips, iris, daffodils, anemones, lilies, amaryllis, sunflowers, orchids, etc can all be good choices.

Try to avoid things that have millions of very tiny parts such as mums, dahlia, hydrangeas, or ranunculus. Having flowers with a ton of small, nondescript parts can be very challenging in an alla prima context because it can be very difficult to latch on to any one part of it.

We have ball jars at the studio to use as vases but if students want a different vessel, they should also bring one with them to use. Further recommended materials are available by clicking the button on this page.

Paints:

Titanium White or Cremnitz White
Cadmium Yellow Light
Cadmium Yellow Medium
Cadmium Orange
Cadmium Red Light
Transparent Red Oxide (Rembrandt brand preferably)
Alizarin Crimson
Ivory Black
Raw Umber
Burnt Umber
Manganese or Cobalt Blue
Viridian
Manganese or Cobalt Violet
Van Dyke Brown (Gamblin brand preferably)
Neutral Grays (if you have tubed them…if not, don’t worry)
Quinacridone Magenta
Quinacridone Violet
Quinacridone Red
Dioxazine Purple

Feel free also to bring in any other colors that you like as well! This is a
general list of what’s often on my palette and some things that you may find
useful, depending on what flowers you are painting. Your palette doesn’t
need to be exactly these colors, so don’t stress if you don’t have every sin-
gle one. As long as you have a full range of colors to choose from, you
should be fine.

**Brushes:**

Bring a good selection of whatever brushes you have or enjoy using.

For alla prima, I like to have a good selection of flats. I personally really
like Rosemary’s “Master’s Choice” and “Ivory” brushes (both in the “long
flat” shape, and in a variety of sizes). I find the Ivory works best at the be-
ginning of the painting, and I like the Master’s Choice for somewhat more
finishing work.

It’s also nice to have a handful of small/medium, round, soft brushes. They
don’t have to be expensive (I like the Utrecht brand with the black handle
and green stripe near where you hold it…they’re pretty affordable and work
well. They can be purchased from Blick). It’s good if the rounds come to a
nice point though.

You may want one or two small Liner or Rigger brushes. I think Beste
brand makes good ones and they are very inexpensive.

I also find it useful to have one very soft fan brush.
Surface:

Bring a few medium sized canvases to paint on. We’ll be doing a new painting each day, so you’ll need at least that many canvases (ideally I would bring a few extras just in case). They don’t have to be anything especially expensive. I often recommend “Centurion Oil Primed Linen Panels”, which can be purchased from Jerry’s Artarama. They’re very affordable and actually quite nice to paint on.

I do suggest trying to get something that is oil primed, although it’s not a strict requirement. I would suggest bringing a variety of sizes, from 9x12 up to around 16x20. It will be up to you, to a degree, whether you want to paint a larger bouquet in a day or if you want to focus in on one or two flowers. More or less, that decision will dictate the size of your canvas. Also, if you bring larger canvases, make sure that you have some larger brushes!).

Miscellaneous:

-Solvent. **Please bring either Gamsol or Oderless turpenoid… NOT mineral spirits or turpentine.** I personally use Gamsol as I am told that it is the most health-friendly solvent on the market. Also bring a jar with a tight fitting lid to pour it in.

-Paper towels (bring plenty, you will use them!)

-Palette. Any palette that you like is fine so long as it’s not super tiny. If you’re buying one, check out New Wave palettes, they’re really nice :)

-Palette knives. I would bring at least two. Preferably medium size and trowel shaped.

-A medium of your choice. I like oleogel (made by Rublev) but linseed oil, walnut oil, Gamblin solvent-free gel, or liquin is also fine. Please don’t bring any mediums with smelly varnishes or other strong smelling ingredients in them.