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Surfaces

We will be making small paintings. You may even choose to execute all three exercises on the same canvas. Any of the supports I list below will be sufficient for these paintings. I have listed the least expensive supports of the minimum quality necessary for our work. If you have a canvas or panel that you are already very comfortable with, please feel free to use it. I strongly advise against using cotton duck in any form.

Centurion is the cheapest oil primed linen available. You can buy pads of [loose leaf canvas](#) from many art suppliers (but not Blick). They also sell [mounted linen on MDF](#) panel, which are equally inexpensive. With the loose leaf canvas you will need to tape the canvas to a panel or drawing board.

Centurion also makes both products ([loose](#) and [mounted](#)) available in acrylic primed. If you are comfortable working on acrylic these are a very inexpensive approach. However, I would like to state that for a few dollars more you can work on the above oil primed canvas, which is a superior experience.

Blick also makes [mounted linen panels](#), both in acrylic primed and oil primed which are comparable.

If you have a roll of canvas available you can certainly cut off pieces of an adequate size.

If you prefer to work on panel without linen that is also fine. Any acrylic or oil primed panel will work for our needs. An example would be the [DaVinci panels](#).

DO NOT buy anything with a rough texture, anything made of cotton, and in my experience...gesso board is too slippery for the beginner.

Please remember these exercises are small. In total we will paint four studies around the size of 6" in any dimension.

Brushes

This is so much up to how much experience you have. If you just need to purchase some brushes in order to take this class I highly suggest cheap synthetic brushes. I use the [kiddie brushes](#) you find in any craft store. These will get you pretty much anywhere you need to go. If you want to indulge, buy yourself a couple of [medium sized sables](#) (around 4mm). If you're experienced with bristle brushes you may use them, but I don't suggest them to the total beginner. Their pro is what many people confuse with their con, they really don't let you blend or fuss with the brush stroke. This is great! But it takes some getting used to.

Paint

The aim of this materials list is not to force you to buy a lot of expensive paint, but rather to make sure your palette, if you already have one, is compatible with this course. Therefore I have

segregated the paints list into hues, please have at least one **white, red, yellow and blue (ivory black counts as a blue) and RAW UMBER.**

Anything in **bold** is suggested and will be useful in the future if you decide to keep painting. It might be wise to spend the few extra dollars on Professional grade over student grade...the high oil content of student paint can be frustrating.

Whites:

Titanium white or lead white. You **must** have a white. Lead is more subtle than titanium and requires more paint than titanium to influence a pile. It's also more expensive.

Yellows: pick one or more

Cadmium Yellow

Yellow Ochre

Raw Sienna

Oranges:

Cadmium Orange

Burnt Sienna

Reds: pick one or more

Cadmium Red

Red Ochre

Terra Rosa

Venetian Red

Alizarin

Purples: optional

Cobalt Violet

Quinacridone Magenta

Blues: optional

Cobalt Blue

Cerulean

Ultramarine

Greens: optional

Viridian

Oxide of Chromium

Browns:

Raw Umber (I highly recommend Old Holland raw umber)

Burnt Umber

VanDyke Brown

Asphaltum

Blacks:

Ivory Black

Fun side note: As you may have noticed I do not suggest a lot of organic colors like the pthalos and quinacrodones. These, I find, are too strong and transparent...however if they are what you are used to...I can still teach you! Just please have one white, red, yellow and blue.

I do want to take this opportunity to make the claim that at GCA we tend to stick to the inorganics...earth colors and the like. We are looking at the old masters for inspiration from time to time and they only had the colors listed above (and not even some of those...blues were not widely available until the mid 19th century).

Palette

If you don't have a palette you can purchase these [paper palettes](#) (IN GRAY).

If you want to start a wooden palette you can purchase an [inexpensive wooden palette](#) and seal it yourself. The quick and dirty way is to apply two to four coats of shellac. The correct way is to apply a thin layer of linseed oil every day for at least five days.

Other stuff

Paper towels or cotton rag

[Palette knife](#)

Clean Odorless mineral spirits (not what's in your brush cleaner)

Tape and a board to tape your canvas to if using loose canvas