Painting Basics
S130 01 (SB21)

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Monday, Wednesday
9:00-12:15
July 12 - August 11
207 Green

Due to Covid19 restrictions access to the painting classroom might be limited.

Painting Basics is an introductory level course that will familiarize students with basic techniques and concepts in painting practice and discourse. The course will focus on observational painting with oil paint. Due to limitations on classroom use most painting will be done outside in the manner of what is commonly referred to as “plein air.”

Formal instruction will focus on the study of value, color, materials and composition. The first half of the class will consist of four specific exercises designed to familiarize students with these formal concepts. Van Gogh was a self-taught painter and as such we can follow some of the same lessons he followed to inform our own learning. Some of the exercises are based on what we know of his attempt to teach himself to paint from life.

For the second half of the course students will be asked to paint freely while attempting to incorporate earlier instruction.

**Course requirements:** Attendance, adequate completion of assignments, and active participation in all discussions and critiques is required. Do not miss class without a good excuse. If you come unprepared, are tardy, or miss part of class, your attendance will be impacted and your grade will be affected. **Please note that you will be required to paint outside of class each week. The expectation is that you work about 4-6 hours a week on this outside of class.**
Schedule:

**Weeks 1: July 12th and 14th**
-Surface preparation and materials talk and demo
Exercise 1: Value Study – mixing greys and gray scale paintings.
Exercise 2: Materials Study – thick and thin; limited palette paintings
Reading assignment: *What painting Is* by James Elkins

**Week 2: July 19th and July 21st**
Exercise 3: Color Mixing – saturation and de saturation; local vs. relative color –
Painting clouds and shadows; Reading: [http://vangoghletters.org/vg/letters/let252/letter.html](http://vangoghletters.org/vg/letters/let252/letter.html)
Ball, Chapter 1. Bright Earth

**Week 3: July 26th and July 28th**
Exercise 4: Composition Study – Foreground, middle ground, background edges and scale. Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls-MvKg5e4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls-MvKg5e4)

**Week 4: Aug 2nd and 4th**
Critiques of the four exercises
Start final painting assignments

**Week 5: Aug 9th and 11th**
Continue final painting assignments and final critiques/class exhibition

**MATERIALS LIST**

*There are two art supply stores in New Haven. Hull's is right next door to the School of Art, but is more expensive and has less variety than Artist and Craftsman which is about a 10-15 minute walk from school at 821 Chapel St.*

- Brushes – Hog hair bristle brushes – 3-5 filberts of various sizes
- Pencils and compressed charcoal
- Pallet paper
- Canvas boards
- Wood panels
- Gesso
- Gamsol
- Jar for Gamsol
- Roll of paper towels or rags
- Bags for trash
- Big hat for the sun
- Oil paint – starter set from Gamblin