

## Thinking of Painting?

So often in life we ask ourselves what other interests or challenges could lead to new joys or help fill our need to be creative or productive. Members of the PROBUS Open Studio group regularly invite others to join us in our ongoing pursuit to paint as much as we can or as little as we want to.

We often are asked for help to buy paint supplies, especially which colours to buy. Over the years I have met many artists who have helped me to better understand **single pigment colours** and how to read the tubes. With a list of warm and cool primaries, it is not near as overwhelming or costly. Art stores can be like candy stores!

### First, drawing supplies:

Buy a sketch pad (about 6" x 9" – packs easily), a graphite pencil, pencil sharpener and good eraser.

Drawing can be an enjoyable way to start painting. Your collection of sketches later can become subjects to paint. It is also such a transportable form of art, should you like to go for walks or simply sketch still life objects around your home. You don't need to set aside a lot of time to do it, or you can get lost for hours. No muss or fuss.

### Second, deciding on your medium:

Deciding on what medium to buy can depend on a lot more than which might be considered the easiest to use. I have used watercolour, oil and acrylic and view each one as different, with its own properties and feel. So, I think it's about the person you are - your personality. You might like to control your paint or like it to flow, sometimes into satisfying accidents. You might like softer, transparent colours or bolder, thicker colours. Some are more flexible than others; all require special techniques, etc.

Many people say that the hardest medium is watercolour and the easiest is acrylic. That being said, **I'd suggest acrylic, because it has less of a smell and is easiest to clean up.** I also suggest **buying artist quality, rather than student quality** - buy less, but better.

### Third, heading out to buy your supplies:

**Look for only single pigment paints.** (These will give you cleaner colours and enable you to more easily learn to mix other colours. Check for the pigment codes on the tubes of good brand products.)

**Here's a guide or list (thanks to one of my favourite artists, Colin Whitebread):**

**Buy a warm and a cool colour of each primary. This means 6 tubes, each serving a different, multiple purpose.**

<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>WARM</u>	<u>COOL</u>
<b>RED</b>	Naphthal Red (Med.) PR 170 Pyrrole Red (Med.) PR 254 Cadium Red (Med.) PR108	Alizarin Crimson PR83 Quinacradone Magenta PR1222
<b>BLUE</b>	Phthalo Blue 15:1 (Red Shade) Ultramarine Blue PB29 French Ultramarine PB29	Phthalo Blue 15:3 (Green Shade) Cobalt Blue PB 28
<b>YELLOW</b>	Cadium Yellow (Deep) PY35  Hansa Yellow (Deep) PY65 Arylide, Azo - (Deep) PY65	Cadium Yellow (Light) PY35  Hansa Yellow (Light) PY 3 or PY74 Arylide, Azo (Light) PY74

Also buy: Titanium White (PW6) - It is more opaque.

Do not buy: Zinc White PW6 - It is transparent, better used with a glaze.

Also buy these “cheaters”: Yellow Ochre (PY42) and Burnt Sienna (PBr 7) and a **COLOUR WHEEL**.

DO NOT Buy: Black - You can mix it. Google for various artists’ mixes.

