

DATE WITH PAINT

NOTES FOR LESSON # 1.



LESSON 1: EYES ON SUPPLIES

There is literally a cornucopia of supplies out there for artists these days! And it seems new products appear on store shelves/websites with a furious frequency. It's my hope that this handy little handout will reduce your feelings of overwhelm and help get you on the road to creating your masterpiece in **"Date with Paint"**!

I am writing this during COVID lockdown which means you may need to be a little more intentional in gathering your supplies. For that reason, I have limited my suggestions to stores who have websites and curbside pickup available. Feel free to shop at ANY local art store that is currently open. For one-stop shopping and the best prices in Canada, I would suggest Michael's (order online, curbside pickup or delivery). You can also purchase everything on Amazon... all recommended items are on my Amazon wishlist here:

https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/3SV5AB6DE5RPL?ref=wl_share

What you'll need for DATE WITH PAINT:

1. SOMETHING TO PAINT ON.

CANVASES: Canvas material wrapped tightly around a wood frame, stapled and primed for painting. For this micro-course, I recommend at least 12”X16”, but 16”X20” is best. My favourite source for these is Michael’s ‘Everyday Value’ multi-packs—the most economical way to buy practice canvases that I know of.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/artists-loft-necessities-canvas-value-pack-16inx20in/10204595.html> (It is expensive to buy canvases on Amazon, but there are some on the wish list link above if you prefer.)

CANVAS PAPER PAD: A pad of usually 10 or so ‘pages’ of canvas paper. These are perfect for experimentation in lesson 2. They are more economical than canvases.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/canvas-pad-by-artists-loft-necessities/M10188587.html>



I know art supplies can be confusing and overwhelming, so I've tried to keep it simple for this crash course!

2. MARK-MAKING SUPPLIES.

MARKERS: Sharpies or other permanent markers of any colour (not the water-based children’s markers). <https://canada.michaels.com/en/sharpie-fine-point-permanent-markers/10352831.html>

PENCIL: We won’t be using this much, but you probably have one lying around. Any pencil is fine.

What you'll need for DATE WITH PAINT:

3. PAINT.

BASIC COLOURS: Black, white, raw umber (brown), yellow, red, blue.

OTHER OPTIONAL COLOURS:

Magenta (pinky red), Purple, Green, Orange.

OPTIONAL FUN EXTRAS: Metallic gold/silver, fluorescent colours.

A word about paint brand and quality... On a budget, my favourite brands by far are “Artist Loft” or “Basics” (sold at Michael’s). Here is the link for white and you can take it from there:

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/acrylic-paint-by-artists-loft-4oz./10135009.html>



There is a pretty economical Grumbacher set with all the colours you need in the Amazon wish list if you prefer.



I just know that once you get acquainted, you are going to fall in love with your new 'date'!

4. SPONGE(S).

SPONGES: I like sponges with lots of holes and character, but cellulose sponges or really any sponge is fine. Sea sponges are sold in the art stores; other sponges you can get in grocery stores, dollar stores, or really anywhere. Here is a link from Michael’s: <https://canada.michaels.com/en/royal-and-langnickel-natural-sea-silk-sponge-set/10284553.html>

What you'll need for DATE WITH PAINT:

5. BRUSHES

Note: any brand is fine for this course (I just chose links to the low-cost options below. There are also brushes in my Amazon list if you prefer.



FLAT BRUSH: A 1" or 1.5" flat brush. Simply a must-have to lay that paint down quickly & beautifully.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/simple-simmons-flat-wash-brush/10472892.html>

MOP BRUSH: 1" mop or blending brush is essential!

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/princeton-select-artiste-series-3750-oval-mop-brush/10552936.html>

ROUND BRUSHES: A #8, and a #2 is what I used in the lesson. But the exact sizes are not that important, and if you only want to buy one size, that will do fine. <https://canada.michaels.com/en/simple-simmons-short-handle-round-brush/10472909.html>

FILBERT BRUSH: A nice brush for rounded edges and soft marks.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/simple-simmons-filbert-brush/10472859.html>

FAN BRUSH: Buy a #2 size fan brush. It is useful for painting interesting marks and lines you don't get with other brushes.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/simple-simmons-fan-blender-brush/10472851.html>

LINER BRUSH: Size 2 or larger is great... this brush makes incredible fluid lines. <https://canada.michaels.com/en/soft-grip-script-liner-brush/10329368.html>

What you'll need for DATE WITH PAINT:

6. TEXTURE TOOLS.

PUTTY KNIFE: The kind you probably have in your garage for puttying your walls. If you don't have one, you can find it on the Amazon list.

PLASTIC PALETTE KNIFE SET: A very economical set of 5 different sizes of which you may only use 2. Sold at Michael's here: <https://canada.michaels.com/en/plastic-palette-knife-set-by-artists-loft-6ct/10291166.html>.

Also found on the Amazon list.

CATALYST TEXTURE TOOL: OR a no-longer-needed *comb* or '*adhesive spreader*'. These are used to carve rows of lines into wet paint and make fascinating marks. This you can get on the Amazon list (Michael's does not carry them).



It's so fun to achieve a childlike freedom with the supplies!

7. SPRAY BOTTLE & AN OLD TOOTHBRUSH.

8. TABLE COVERING.

9. RAGS OR PAPER TOWELS.

10. WATER BUCKET.

What you'll need for DATE WITH PAINT:

11. PALETTE.

PALETTE: This is where you will put out your paints and mix colours. Buy a plastic one that is flat (no little cubby holes), and at least roughly 9X12.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/default/10063515.html>

PALETTE PAPER PAD: Disposable palette sheets that feel like wax paper. This is my preference.

<https://canada.michaels.com/en/paper-palette-pad-by-artists-loft-9in-by-12in/10552994.html>

IMPROVISE: You can put some wax paper in an old cookie sheet and that would do. Or use a plastic plate or tray. This may appeal to the do-it-yourselfer!



When you approach an empty canvas, you feel the sacred 'hush' of possibility.

12. OLD CLOTHES OR AN APRON.

13. TABLE EASEL:

An easel isn't necessary for this course. However, it will make painting a bit easier if your canvas is 16X20" or larger. You can get a table easel for about \$30 at Michael's: <https://canada.michaels.com/en/compact-table-top-easel-by-artists-loft/10194059.html>

(but the one on Amazon wish list actually costs a little less).

TIME TO FALL IN LOVE WITH PAINTING!!