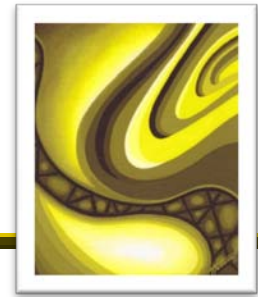


Paint 3: Curving Around Blended Graduations and Hard Edges

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SUPPLY LIST

In addition to a computer system and scanner, you also need the following art supplies:

1. **Drawing supplies:** A 2H or HB pencil and an eraser should be all you need for lightly sketching your subject before you begin painting (Figure 101).

2. **Two canvas boards:** (or one stretched canvas and one canvas board) Buy 8 by 10 inch canvases so they can easily fit on your scanner. 9 by 12 inch canvasses are also OK, but your entire painting may not fit on your scanner.

Canvas boards are very inexpensive and ideal for total beginners to painting. However, after several years, the acid in a canvas board can begin disintegrating its surface, and damage the painting. So if you are a more accomplished painter, you may want to invest in stretched canvases (canvas that is mounted on a wooden frame).

3. **Spray fixative (matte) for pencil:** (optional for beginners) Spray fixative is designed to coat a drawing medium to prevent it from bleeding through the paint.
4. **Gesso** (optional for beginners): Gesso is an inexpensive white paint used for preparing canvases. After you draw your subject on your canvas, you need to apply one or two coats of gesso (or white paint) to fade out your outlines.

You can buy small bottles of white acrylic paint at discount and dollar stores that also work. (Make sure that the paint is acrylic - not watercolor or tempera.) Also (after you begin this painting), if you don't like parts of your painting, gesso or inexpensive white paint can be used to paint over these problem areas so you can start all over. (If you have used dark colors, you may need to apply several layers.)

5. **Palette knife:** I've tried many different types and shapes of palette knives over the years. (The plastic ones are simply awful.) My favorite is made of metal with a wooden handle and the shape is sort of an elongated diamond (Figure 102).
6. **Two glass or plastic containers:** One is used for water and the other for storing your brushes with the handles down.
7. **Bar of non-oily soap:** Soap formulated for babies is best. Stay away from soaps that contain moisturizers or oil – oil and acrylics don't mix, just as oil and water don't mix.

Figure 101

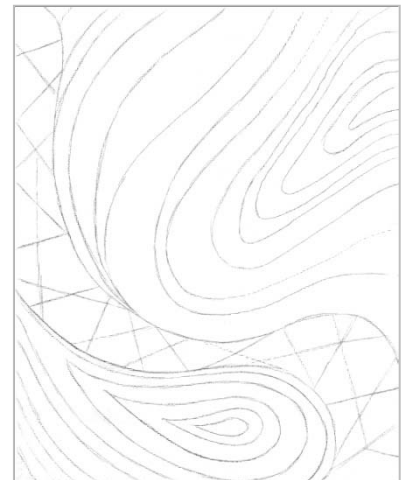


Figure 102



8. **Filbert brush:** Filberts (Figures 103 and 104) are designed with rounded corners to blend paints without leaving the hard edges left by Flats or Brights. Choose a small- to medium-sized filbert for this project; of course, if you decide to use larger canvasses, you should use larger brushes.
9. **Large soft brush:** A soft brush (Figure 105) or sponge brush (approximately 1-inch wide) is ideal for applying gesso or inexpensive white paint to a small canvas.
10. **Scriptliner brush:** (Figure 106) Scriptliners are the workhorses for creating clean edges, signing your name, and painting many types of fine details and textures. You should have at least one small and one large; Scriptliners tend to wear out quickly, so plan to stock up on a few when you see them on sale. (Most painting problems are caused by worn-out or badly-made brushes.)
11. **Set of inexpensive brushes:** (Figure 107) Pick up a few extra brushes to use on practice canvasses. You don't need very many expensive brushes for painting with acrylics. If you leave a brush (with acrylic paint on it) out of water for only three to five minutes, chances are it is ruined.

Check out discount stores and dollar stores and pick up a few cheap brushes. The brushes in Figure 104 came in a package of 6 and cost only \$1.00 (20c a brush)! I was very surprised when I saw that they were almost as good as student quality brushes that cost much more (so, I bought 15 packages). However, check brushes carefully before you buy:

- Ferrules must have no seams
- Handles must be very securely attached
- Bristles (or hairs) must not come out when gently pulled

Brushes with any of these problems are usually too poor quality to use for more than a few minutes. Also, they tend to shed, and sometimes the handle detaches completely from the ferrule.

12. **Paper towels or soft rags:** You use paper towels or rags for wiping your brushes before you wash them and in between changing colors (or values).
13. **Three tubes of paint:** You need Raw Umber (a dark brown), Cadmium Yellow Light (a light but vibrant yellow), and Titanium White (buy a large tube of white if you plan to continue studying painting).

Figure 103



Figure 104



Figure 105



Figure 106



Figure 107



14. **Palette for Mixing Paint:** Pretty much any non-porous, flat, lightweight surface (at least 8 by 8 inches, but no larger than 14 by 14 inches) can work as a surface for mixing paint; for example, a sheet of Plexiglas or a flat, thin piece of finished wood.

You can also purchase inexpensive plastic palettes, or a disposable palette (Figure 108) with tear-off sheets. Since I really do not enjoy cleaning up, I use a disposable palette paper, which usually has about 40 sheets.

15. **Wet Palette:** Acrylic paints have to be mixed very quickly on your palette and then added to the wet palette (Figure 109). Otherwise, the paints dry before you get to use them. You'll save enough money in paint after only a few paintings to more than pay for this investment.

Basically, a wet palette is simply a big plastic thing with an airtight cover designed to keep acrylic paint from drying too quickly.

In addition to the wet palette, pick up a couple of packages of the special papers that fit inside.

16. **Old clothing:** Acrylic paints do not wash out of fabrics; therefore, make sure you always wear old clothing when you paint.

Figure 108



Figure 109

