

## The Energy and Spontaneity of Palette Knife Painting

*Cynthia Rosen - Dec 3-5, 2023*

Approximately 8 years ago I picked up the palette knife in order to learn more about color; in doing so I unwittingly discovered a new visual language. With the success this knowledge has afforded me and my passion for sharing, I look forward to imparting the joys of palette knife painting to you.

The benefits of the palette knife are its immediacy and application of clean broken color. Its use can enhance one's personal artistic voice, bringing excitement and sense of movement to artwork.

My process of teaching is individualized to allow each person's natural inclinations to stand out, be they classical or abstract, while adhering to tenets that help secure successful paintings. In this workshop you will discover how to imbue your paintings with a new-found energy and spontaneity through the use of the palette knife.

The sessions will offer a unique way to heighten color, building upon our review of composition, perspective, color mixing and temperature, value, and other tools used in creating successful vibrant images which reflect the magic and ever-changing nature of life.

Our subject matter will include still life and landscapes along with the possible following options: plein air (adjacent to the studio for those who wish to brave the cold) as well as a portrait session. Demonstrations will be in both oils and acrylics.

Day 1: We will work from still lifes focusing on composition, values, edges, and modeling by mixing warm and cool colors, as well as handling the palette knife.

Day 2: With a focus on landscapes we will cover traditional and atmospheric perspective and the simplification and incorporation of buildings as well as subtle vs 'high' colors. Discussion will include issues related to working from photographs.

Day 3: The subject will be personal choice of subjects while applying and building upon new skills learned.

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## **Supply list:**

**painting surfaces:** a minimum of 4, sized 12x16", 16x20" or larger if you prefer. How many surfaces you use depends on the speed in which you paint. My preference is Ampersand Gessobord. A hard surface allows you to maximize the use of the knife. My second choice would be as smooth a canvas as possible. All surfaces should be preprimed.

**palette knives:** 1 or 2 - RGM #50 or similar (narrow, elongated triangular shape, bent neck, pointed tip). Also #46 works.

**palette** or palette paper (grey is the best if you are making a purchase)

## **oil or acrylic paint colors:**

These or the equivalent: Prussian Blue, Cobalt Blue, Purple Dioxazine, Alizarin Permanent or Crimson, Cadmium Red Medium, Cad Orange, Cad Yellow Medium, Lemon Yellow, Titanium Zinc White NOTE: Titanium for acrylics

Optional: Cobalt Teal or Pthalo Green, Transparent Orange, radiant or kings blue, portand grey

If you want to work with a limited palette I recommend Ultramarine Blue, Cad Red Medium, and Cad Yellow. Also Titanium Zinc White

**Medium** for oils- I suggest Gamblin Solvent Free Fluid, Galkyd, or Galkyd Lite (quick drying) for acrylics - any of the gels, also retarder to slow drying time **or** I suggest using Golden Open acrylics which dry slower. Heavy Bodied Acrylics also have substantial density.

**soap/solution for cleaning** your brushes and a couple of rags for cleaning your knife. Carriers or boxes (large pizza) for transporting wet paintings home (I use Raymar Wet Paint Carriers).

Any **photos** you may choose to work from