



MANIFEST DRAWING CENTER

PERSONAL COLOR: PAINTING THE FIGURE WITH A MIXING MATRIX

Instructed by Neil Callander

MATERIALS LISTS

Personal Color: Painting the Figure with a Mixing Matrix

July 25 - 27, 2025

Course Description

This immersive three-day workshop invites artists to explore the expressive potential of figure painting beyond traditional representation. Through guided exercises, engaging slide lectures, and focused critique sessions, participants will examine how a painted figure can communicate meaning that extends beyond physical likeness or identity. The figure will be considered through a range of imaginative lenses: as loosely-bound stardust, a structure of dynamic volumes, a presence interacting with its environment, and a metaphor open to interpretation.

Participants will build their own artistic voice by developing and mastering a personalized limited palette. Using a structured color-mixing matrix, you will complete a series of small-scale paintings from live models, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between color, form, and mark-making. The workshop will also explore the concept of “resolution” in figurative painting—what it means and how to achieve it through a range of technical and conceptual approaches.

You’ll strengthen your observational painting skills, learn to create intentional color strategies, and unlock the expressive power of a limited palette. The course also emphasizes understanding cool and warm relationships in light and shadow, grasping the conception of mass in the figure, managing edge quality, and developing a refined vocabulary for discussing and critiquing figurative work.

Materials List:

Oil Paints

Bring an extensive selection of quality oil paints. This workshop emphasizes developing a personalized limited palette, so variety is essential. Students are encouraged to share and exchange colors with peers.

Medium

Bring diverse painting mediums suitable for both layering and wet-into-wet techniques. Students are encouraged to share mediums with peers. Recommended materials include:

- Linseed or walnut oil
- Stand oil
- Alkyd medium
- Cold wax
- Marble dust
- Extender medium

Surfaces

Prepare multiple small painting substrates with white gesso grounds. Recommended sizes: 5x6", 10x12", 15x18" (1:1.2 ratio preferred)

3-5 - 5"x6" surfaces

6 - 10"x12" or 15"x18" (or a combination of these sizes)

Options include:

- Wood panels (cradled or uncradled)
- Primed linen or canvas (stretched or unstretched)
- Arches oil paper

*Additional surfaces will be provided.

Brushes and Knives

- Multiple palette knives (recommended: Liquitex freestyle #5)
- Diverse brush selection varying in size, shape, and bristle type

Other Materials

- Large palette (preferably glass, 18x24" or larger)
- White artist tape
- Viva paper towels or soft cotton rags

Cincinnati Art Stores

Suder's Art Store

1309 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-0800

Plaza Art - Clifton

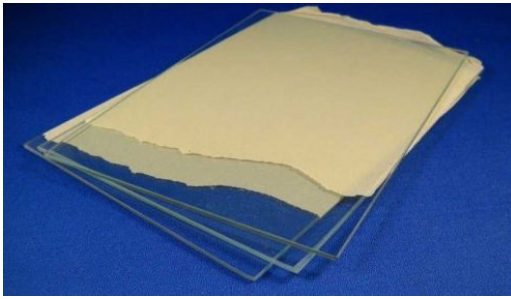
230 W. McMillan Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
513-861-0667

Plaza Art - Kenwood

8118 Montgomery Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
513-793-5300

Register online at www.manifestdrawingcenter.org

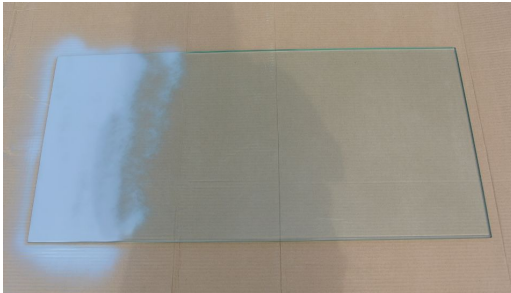
The Manifest Center for the Visual Arts | 3464 Central Pkwy | Cincinnati, OH 45223 | (513) 861-3638



1. Purchase an 18x24" sheet of glass (standard 3/32" or thicker).

You can purchase pre-cut glass at many hardware and home improvement stores (such as Lowe's, Home Depot) in standard sizes.

Many places will cut glass to size for you if you cannot find the specified size.



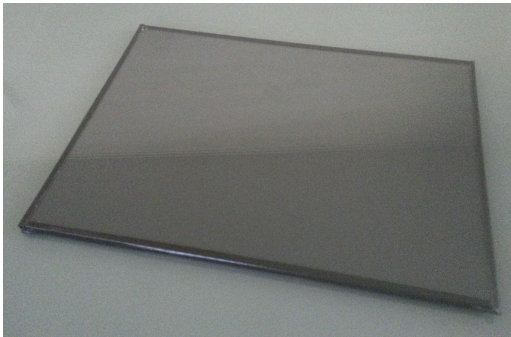
2. Clean and spray the back of the glass with an even coverage of medium gray spray paint.

Spray the surface with glass cleaner and wipe clean with a clean towel before applying spray paint.

Put down a piece of scrap cardboard to catch overspray.

Rust-Oleum *Smoke Gray* spray paint works pretty well here. This will give you a neutral tone to mix your colors within. Make sure to let it dry between coats and before moving on to the next step.

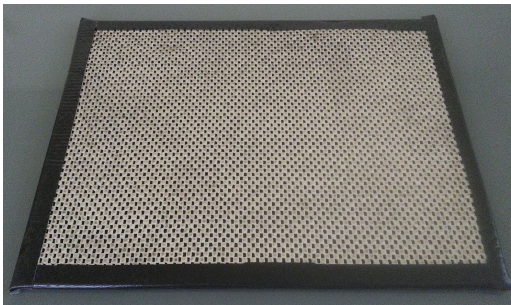
*You could choose to use a gray sheet of cardstock underneath your glass instead of spray paint to speed up the process.



3. Tape edge of the glass to a stiffener such as hardboard.

This will protect you and others from being cut by the sharp edges of the glass, as well as minimize the chance of the glass breaking in transportation and storage.

The hardboard should be an inch larger in dimensions (if you followed the cut list you should already have a 19x25" sheet) to give a 1/2" lip around the outside for protection against bumps and to give a surface to tape to. Black duct tape works well here, while solvent resistant tape works even better.



4. Flip over and tape a non-slip pad to the bottom.

This step is optional, but will keep your palette from slipping during usage when placed on smooth surfaces such as the in-class taborets.

The type of grip placed underneath rugs works well here. You can affix it directly to the bottom of your palette with tape just like the glass was secured to the top of the hardboard.