

Painting the nude figure

In this course, we will concentrate on creating a convincing study of the nude figure painted from life. Figure painting has long been a cornerstone of academic art training, teaching artists to develop precision in observation and a thorough understanding of painting and drawing principles. Mastering figure painting equips artists to address the most challenging aspects of traditional painting, such as large-scale compositions and precise portraiture.

Our focus will be on anatomy, structure, the flow of light, balance, proportions, and composition. By taking this course, you will learn to approach figure painting in a clear, methodical manner that can be applied to your own artwork. You will gain the ability to ask yourself the right questions, which will advance your artistic development even after the course concludes.

I will share insights based on my research into 19th-century painting methods taught at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, as well as modern techniques taught in contemporary academies, and show outstanding examples of successful figure studies to be inspired by.

Materials:

All the materials can be bought at Gerstacker or Bosner in Vienna

CANVAS:

60 x 45 cm

I recommend Cleassens Canvas with oil ground, stretched on 60 x 45 stretcher bars

OIL PAINTS:

I recommend using professional grade oil paint, good brands you can find at Bosner or Gerstacker are Old Holland, Williamsburg and Schmincke.

White: Lead white/lead white imitation:

(Old Holland mixed white no 2, Williamsburg Titan-Zinc White, Schmincke Zink-Titan Wei)

Black: Ivory Black

Umber: Raw Umber, Burnt Umber

Red: Vermillion (imitations such as “Vermillion extra“ are fine) or Cadmium Red

Yellow: Yellow Ochre

Blue: Cobalt Blue

BRUSHES:

Good selection of filbert bristle brushes plus some rounds in a good range (4 – 16). Generally speaking: the more the better.

Synthetic brushes are not recommended as they don't leave a sensitive mark.

MEDIUM CUP:

A decent cup for your medium, you can attach these to your palette.

MEDIUM:

Linseed oil

PALETTE**PALETTE KNIFE****PAPER TOWELS**