


# Oil Painting – The Ultimate Guide For Beginners

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# Introduction


- ▶ Oil paints are one of the most popular artistic mediums and for good reason. They are versatile, archival and economical.
- ▶ Oil paint is comprised of ground-up colored pigment suspended in a drying oil, usually linseed oil. The quality of oil paint varies based on the quality of the pigment used, how fine the pigment is and the medium which is used.

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- ▶ You can make oil paint more fluid by mixing it with more oil, or by adding a solvent, however, this also weakens the paint. Oil paint is generally at its most stable form straight from the tube.

# Oil Painting Supplies and Equipment

Here is a basic set of oil painting supplies and equipment:

- ▶ A range of small to large paintbrushes designed for oil painting. Hog hair and decent synthetic brushes are great for oil painting. You should read my guide here on artist paint brushes for more information.

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- ▶ An easel.
  - ▶ A palette.
  - ▶ A basic palette of paints (discussed below).
  - ▶ A surface to paint on (discussed below).
  - ▶ Odorless solvent.
  - ▶ Linseed oil.
  - ▶ Paper towel (for wiping your brushes).

# Oil Painting Color Palette

With your color palette, I suggest you use as few colors as possible. This will force you to learn how to mix your colors. At a minimum, you should have a red, blue, yellow and white.



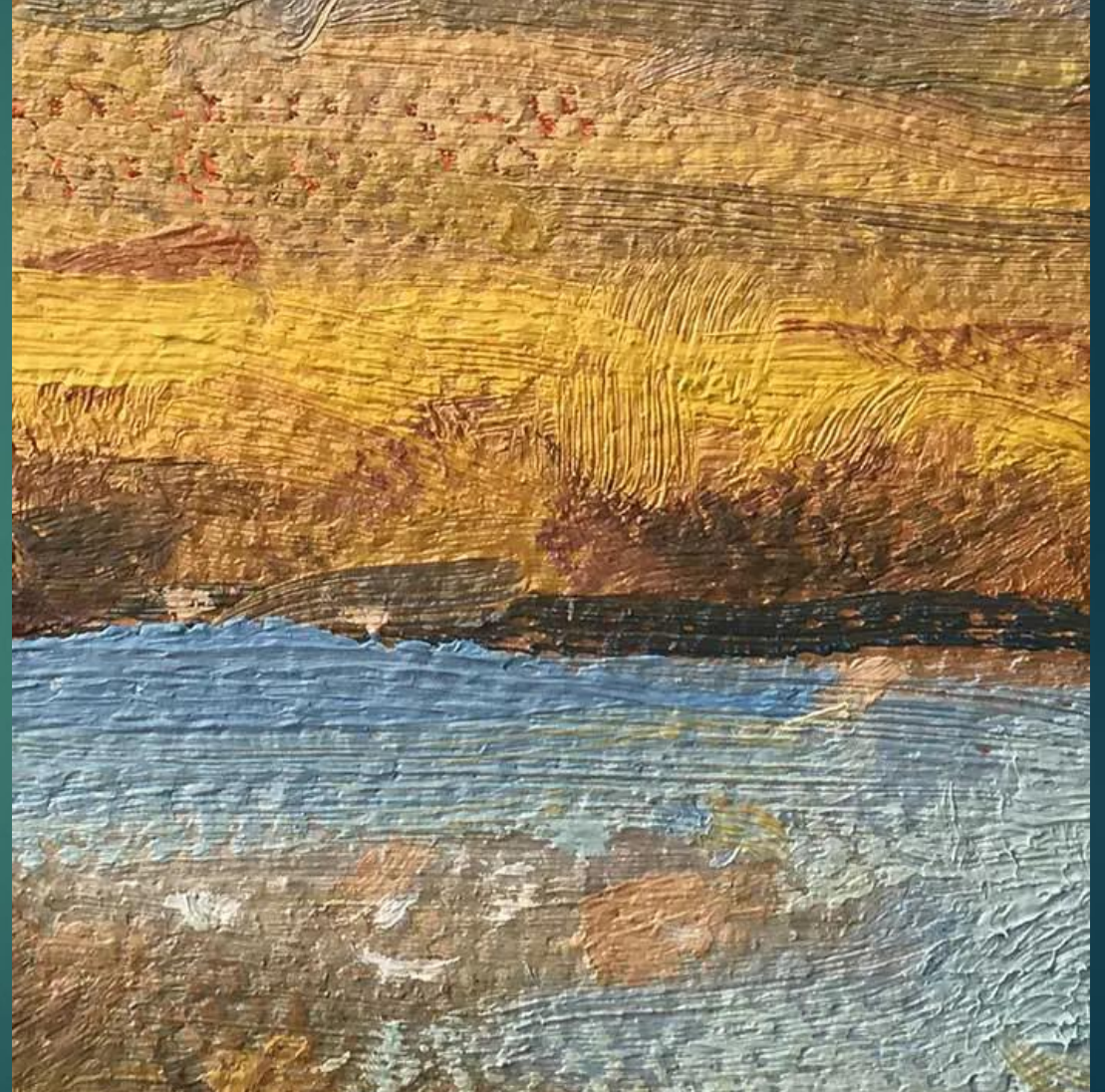
Here is my current color palette:

- ▶ Ultramarine blue
- ▶ Cobalt blue
- ▶ Cadmium yellow
- ▶ Cadmium yellow light
- ▶ Yellow ochre
- ▶ Cadmium orange
- ▶ Cadmium red
- ▶ Alizarin crimson
- ▶ Raw umber or burnt sienna
- ▶ Titanium white





# Oil Painting "Rules"

- ▶ In oil painting, there are some "rules" which you should follow to avoid your paint cracking.





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- ▶ Fat over lean: As noted earlier, oil paint is basically colored pigment which is held together by some kind of drying oil. The more oil present, the "fatter" the paint is and the slower it will dry. In general, you want to make sure the top layers of paint are fatter (or oilier) than the lower layers. Otherwise, the layers on top will dry faster than the layers below and the paint will crack.

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- ▶ Thick over thin: The reasoning behind this rule is the same as the above rule. You want to make sure the paint at the top dries slower than the paint at the bottom. Thick paint will usually dry slower than thin paint.

THE END

