

## Tips for Recommended Materials

- **PAINTS** – There are a number of good brands of acrylic paints. My experience has been with Golden and Liquitex. Basics brand is designed for student work and is fine for this class. I find that the Liquitex consistency is a bit nicer when it comes to mixing colors than the Basics brand.
- **PAINT COLORS** – There are must have colors and recommended colors. The questions would be 1) Is this a one time class? 2) What color is the pet? 3) Do you have a background color in mind? That said, here are the “Must Have Colors” I use: Titanium White, Yellow Oxide, Burnt Sienna, Ultramarine Blue, Turquoise Deep, Cadmium Red, Mars Black. (I realize that many artists hate black, but with animals, I have found black to be very useful.) Optional Colors: Red Oxide, Dioxazine Purple, Cadmium Yellow Medium.
- **BRUSHES** – There are a number of brushes I find to be useful. There is an inexpensive brand of brushes at Arizona Art supply that I love, Princeton Select. These brushes have just the right “bounce.” You will need round brushes: #0, #1, #3. I like larger bristle brushes for backgrounds.
- **TYPE OF CANVAS – An 11x14 CANVAS IS PROVIDED FOR THIS CLASS.** The type of canvas can make a big difference in your painting results. Some are fairly smooth and some, although they say “medium”, are actually highly textured (such as Winsor Newton). It’s like the difference between a paved road and a gravel road. The high texture kills it when you try to make a smooth line.
- **BACKGROUNDS** – I always start with a black or tinted colored canvas. There is a richness that it brings to the painting. The old masters painted on tinted canvases. I had also gotten frustrated with little white dots that showed up from the paint not going into every dent in the canvas. This eliminates that problem.
- **SANDING** – This should not be necessary for this class. A smoother type of canvas is being provided. Sanding can knock off some of the “tooth” of the canvas and give you a smoother surface to paint.
- **OTHER SURFACES** – I have painted on masonite that comes already gessoed. It gives a super smooth surface. The paint tends to soak into the gesso more than on canvas. I’ve had to do more layers of paint. It does a nice job for detailing.