

Acrylic Painting with Sarah Jane Richards

Materials:

Acrylic Paint

Brushes

Palette

Acrylic/watercolour paper

Painting materials can be a bit daunting and colour theory can seem a bit complex. In my video I aim to keep this very simple and break it down in ways so that you can discover the magic of colour mixing yourself – which is the best way to keep excited and to learn. Prices can vary enormously. You certainly don't need the most expensive paints and brushes, but please do avoid the cheaper ones you can find in discount stores. Spend whatever you feel comfortable with but I would recommend a mid-range price or student quality to start off.

PAINTS

Begin with the three primary colours (red, blue, yellow) and white. If you want to purchase a more comprehensive range I suggest buying the primaries in warm and cool and you can also buy the earth tones – Yellow ochre, burnt sienna and raw umber. Even though I have a huge range of the different primary hues, I never buy secondary or tertiaries, I find most of the fun with painting is mixing colour and learning how colour works myself. (I briefly explain the terms primary and secondary in the video, tertiary is just colour in between these two - don't worry about these terms, they will make sense the more you paint.)

BRUSHES

Keep it simple, I suggest starting with a small, medium and large round brush – as your painting progresses you can collect a wider variety of brushes but these three are perfect for starting.

PAPER

You must use suitable paper, or canvas. In my video I use acrylic paper but watercolour paper works just as well.

PALETTE

I like to work with a stay wet palette with acrylics. You can purchase these but in my video I show you how to make and work with your own.

MISC

Water containers, painting rag, apron to protect your clothes if you need it, table cover, water spray if your paints dry too much.

Colour Mixing

Explore mixing your colours together on the palette to make new colours. Add colours to each other a little but at a time and notice the fine differences in colour. Collect these colours on a piece of paper and make notes to yourself. This is a great activity for discovering colours and the test paper can end up really beautiful too.

Blending

How to blend two colours into each other – I demonstrate a wet and dry technique but there are lots of way to do with, including using texture. Spend some time explore blending and see which affects you like the most.

Creating a painting

Paintings are just colours and marks, start off playing with colours and then mark making and see what images you can make from this. On the video I show two different ways to approach this but there are many more and there is no right or wrong. I get lots of inspiration from online.

Don't worry if you don't make an amazing painting the first time – we have all got hundreds of rubbish paintings in us – but there are good ones in there too! Just keep playing, keep exploring and have fun!