

Albright Art Supply

Art Mediums Available at Albright Art Supply

Oil Painting

This traditional art technique began in 15th century Europe. Oil paints contain ground up pigments suspended in linseed oil. This combination makes it dry slower than other mediums. With a slower drying speed, the advantage is the artist has more time to work on their painting. The artist can make changes by painting a new scene or adding another layer of paint to the canvas.

Today, you can find some oils with pigments suspended in walnut oil. Walnut Oil is used in M Graham Oils because this oil yellows less over time.

Acrylic painting

Acrylic paint is created when pigment and an acrylic polymer is suspended in water. The paint is water-soluble while it is wet but becomes water-resistant once dried. Once it is dried, the artist cannot rework the paint. Acrylic paints dry faster and can be applied to canvas, paper, or boards directly without the need for gesso. Some artists will still apply a gesso to their canvas to give a nice smooth surface or to work on a white background.

Watercolors

Watercolors consist of pigment suspended in gum arabic or gum arabic with honey. Watercolor paints are translucent so the artist will work from lightest value to darkest (other mediums you tend to work darkest and add highlights on the top layer). Watercolors are easily portable—you just need a palette of colors, water, a brush, and paper. It is preferable to use a heavier weight paper for watercolors so the paper will not buckle when water comes in contact with the surface (140lb paper or higher is best). Paper comes in sheets, pads, and blocks.

Pastels

Soft Pastels

Soft pastels consist of pigment and a binding material. It is said pastels straddle a line between painting and drawing. They can look luminous like a painting, but they are like a drawing in that the process of creating an image is the same. There are varying degrees of hardness (Hard: NuPastels; Medium Hard: Rembrandt or Caran d'Ache Pastels; Soft: Sennelier or Diane Townsend Soft Form or Terrages) Artists will use a combination of these hardness depending on the effect they want to achieve. Soft pastels like Sennelier easily crumble if you apply too much pressure but are great for blending. Harder pastels like NuPastels are great for details or strong lines. A paper with a texture such as pastel paper or sanded paper is used for the crystals of the pastel to adhere to the surface.

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Oil Pastels

An oil pastel consists of pigment mixed with a non-drying oil and wax. Artists use them directly on paper or canvas and can easily create impasto effects (thick layers). You can use oil pastels on paper, canvas, hard board, or wood. You can also mix them with walnut oil to change their consistency.

Charcoal

Charcoal, one of the oldest mediums, is used for drawing. Charcoal is a powdered organic material bound with wax or gum. You can create pale or strong, expressive lines with charcoal. To prevent a drawing from losing some of the charcoal, it is advisable to apply a fixative on to ensure the artwork's longevity or place a piece of glassine on top of the drawing.

Chalk

Chalk is another drawing medium that usually comes in three versions: black, white, and sanguine. They are primarily used for sketching.

Graphite pencils

Graphite pencils are used for sketching, outlining, or shading. There have varying degrees of hardness (we have 9B to 9H). When the number is followed by B it means the pencil is softer and gives a richer dark. The H is softer and will be grey and get lighter with the higher number.

Colored pencils

Colored pencils are pigments mixed with oil or wax. The difference between student grade colored pencils and artist quality colored pencils is the amount of pigment versus binder.

Pen and ink

Artists can choose between different types of pens (graphic pens, fountain pens, or drafting pens) for outlining images, hand-lettering, or calligraphy.