

“PAINT THE FLORAL STILL LIFE, FROM LIFE”

Sat & Sun, May 31st & June 1st, 2025

9:30am - 4:00pm

Swinton’s Art Supplies, Calgary

Max 12 students

**All demos will be done in Oil, Experienced acrylic painters welcome
Some experience to Advanced Level**

To ensure you have a pleasurable and successful workshop experience, please read carefully & be prepared :). Due to sensitivities, we ask that you not wear scents or perfumes. Thank you!

PAINT: Please buy professional grade paint when possible. Note: Acrylic Painters - names of colours may vary, please use approximate colours. Colours with * are optional but most likely will be on my palette for the demonstration.

Titanium-Zinc White/Gamblin Flake White Replacement, Naples Yellow*, Yellow Ochre, Cad Yellow Light or Cad Lemon, Cad Yellow Deep*, Cad Red Medium or Light, Venetian Red*, Alizarin Crimson, Cad Orange*, Pthalo Blue, Ultramarine Blue, **Burnt Umber**, Raw Umber, Burnt

Sienna/Transparent Oxide Red, Ivory Black*. Floral Colours: Magenta, Quinacridone Magenta, etc.

etc. Note: if you have been enjoying a particular palette, please bring it along. You will do better with special colours for florals.

NOTE: I USE BURNT UMBER TO TONE MY PANEL AND START MY PAINTINGS.

BRUSHES: I’ll be using the following **bristle brushes for oils**. It’s good to have a couple of each. (Treat yourself to some new brushes for the workshop! Your painting will thank you!)

-#2 Filbert, Hog Bristle (this is approx 1/4 inch wide)

-#4 Filbert, Hog Bristle (this is approx 3/4 inch wide)

-A larger soft flat brush to knock down edges & a few small rounds for details.

Swinton’s carries HJ Hogs Bristles which are great. (Long blue handles)

-**Acrylic Painters:** synthetic hogs hair bristle or brushes for acrylic paints in the same size. Prefer the stiffer brushes to the soft synthetics.

-Bring an assortment of brushes. Flats or filberts, whichever is your preference and some small rounds for details if you like.

PALETTE KNIFE - Trowel Shape, Metal, about the size of your thumb (approx 3 inches long). We’ll be using the palette knife to paint with so not the teeny tiny ones and no plastic knives.

PALETTE: for oils, a glass palette or wooden palette is best providing the wooden one has been treated with oil prior to the workshop (several times). Otherwise paper is fine.

Acrylic painters: PLEASE use a large ‘stay-wet’ palette for ease of painting in this workshop. If your paint stays wet you can simulate my methods done in oil.

MEDIUMS: Odorless Mineral Spirits (OMS for oil painters) - 1) larger quantity in a lidded container for cleaning your brushes (not used for painting). As well as: Medium: Oil Painters: mix a medium of 1) 1/2 and 1/2 linseed oil or walnut oil + OMS in a small lidded cup for painting 2) and another small lidded cup, straight oil Whatever other medium you are accustomed to working with such as gel medium, Liquin, megilp, Galkyd, etc.

Acrylic Painters: whatever mediums, extenders you prefer. Extenders are useful for massing in process at the start. **(A stay wet palette will really be an asset).**

CANVAS: For both oil and acrylic painters: Stretched canvas or gessoed panels, or canvas on panels. *Please no cheap wobbly canvases.*

1-8x10 should you like to do a small study of single flower to start (fun to do and recommended)

Sizes: 12x16, 14x18 - 16x20. We will tone the canvas at the workshop (with burnt or raw umber). You will be painting **life-size or smaller** so take that into consideration when choosing canvas size.

FLOWERS & STILL LIFE OBJECTS TO BRING: (Please read carefully)

NOTE: This is a “Floral” workshop so the emphasis will be on flowers.

Give this lots of thought! Artists will bring their own personal objects for their floral paintings. Give some thought to your own still life arrangement. What will make a lovely arrangement with your flowers.

REMEMBER: the flowers are the main subject in your painting so think of how they will add to your design and what will go with them.

IDEAS: Depending on the number and size of your flower arrangement, whether it's a substantial bouquet or a small group of flowers. You'll want to keep it fairly simple so as not to take away from your floral arrangement. Also considering the size and shape of your canvas.

Fruit: Fruit is always a nice accent in a floral still life (grapes, oranges, apples, etc).

Think: lovely colour; lovely shape, lovely accent. You might decide to cut the fruit up and/or if you want multiple of the fruit in your painting, bring odd numbers, (3). Think of colour ideas, complements with your flowers, or monochromatic with one burst of complementary colour.

VASES: A vase or vessel/jar (could be clear, metal or ceramic) to put your flowers in. A beautiful vase might be featured with the flowers with simple objects or fruit on the table top to complement it.

ACCENTS: You may want to add a small accent piece to your painting such as a tiny vase, cup, figurine, etc.

DRAPERY: Bring a cloth/drape to drape in your backdrop of your still life. Think light against dark or dark against light. If your flowers are light, think darker background. If your flowers are dark, think a middle value or lighter value ... or dark against dark (mysterious). Bring a second cloth if

you'd like a cloth on your table top (could be white or even a tea towel). Again, think of colour theme with several options. SMALLER OBJECTS for accents.

A cutting board or a wooden board is always lovely to put your still life on.

YOU WILL BE PAINTING LIFE SIZE OR SMALLER so take this into consideration/ canvas size.

-THINK THIS FOR YOUR STILL LIFE SET UP: Something **DARK**, something **LIGHT**, something **BRIGHT**, something **DULL**, something **LARGE**, something **small**.
Bring an assortment of objects to go with your flowers so that you can set up your own VISUAL IDEA.

THIS WILL BE YOUR OWN PERSONAL STILL LIFE containing those objects special to you.

FLOWERS: You may have a favourite or bring an assorted bouquet. You can always use fewer flowers than you bring. Some artificial flowers are very lovely, too, if you would like to bring those.

Consider a flowering potted plant or several and focus on those with the pots in your painting

NOTE: SUPPLIED AT THE WORKSHOP: EASEL, TABOURET AND STAND WITH A STILL LIFE BOX FOR YOUR SET UP. (I found that the lighting is sufficient in the studio without extra lamps but if you'd like to buy a clip on lamp, some workshop students have found a variety of them at Home Depot, Canadian Tire, etc Be sure to charge them beforehand or bring extra batteries).

PAPER TOWELS: Bring a roll, you'll use lots, apron, gloves, plastic wrap or wax paper to cover your palette for take home.

CAMERA: to photograph your still life (to complete at home if necessary) and to photograph the demo (no videos please)

WATER, note pad & pencil - to take notes.

LUNCH: Bring snacks and lunch for our lunch break.

AND MOST IMPORTANT - your patience and sense of humour! Painting is hard work - we need to be gentle with ourselves!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me bobbi@bobbidunlop.com (and sign up for my newsletter to learn about upcoming workshops!)

Hope to see you there!

Bobbi Dunlop

bobbidunlop.com

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