

A few things to know about working with solvent free oil paints

You can use any kind of oil paint that you like

I like the Cobra brand of “solvent free” or “water mixable” oil paints made by Royal Talens.

I prefer the professional artist grade paints.

These paints are great to travel with and great to use in the studio as well. When you are traveling, it is sometimes hard to teaching a workshop a few years ago and paint thinner was given to all of the students in my workshop. It was awfully smelly, more like kerosene than paint thinner and even in an outdoor setting, it made all of us feel sick!

It's nice to not have to use paint thinner!

When using solvent free oils, you can only paint on a surface that is covered in acrylic gesso or universal primer. You cannot paint with these on oil primed canvas or oil primed linen.

You must always use synthetic bristle brushes or brushes that are 1/2 synthetic and 1/2 real hogs hair bristle. I also like to use synthetic sable brushes.

If you use real hogs hair bristle brushes, they will become limp when dipped in water.

These paints make it much easier to clean up your brushes at the end of the day as compared to cleaning brushes used with traditional oil paints. I like to use Ivory liquid dish soap or Murphy's oil soap to clean my brushes for regular oils or Cobra oils.

The colors in these paints are just as brilliant as colors in traditional oils, you can get almost every traditional oil color in the Cobra line of paints with a few exceptions.

I also like to sometimes do my underpainting with acrylic paints and paint on top of that with either Cobra or Rembrandt traditional oils.

When I travel with Cobra paints, I take about 8 tubes of paint + a big tube of white. I pack the tubes in double ziplock bags and put them in my suitcase.

Before going out to paint, I squeeze the paints out onto my palette in either my 6" x 8" or 8" x 10" pochade box before leaving my hotel room.

take just a tube of white with me, some brushes, a bottle of water, a cup for water, paper towels and some painting panels in a wet painting carrier.

I also like to travel with watercolor paints, gouache and acrylic, these are convenient to travel with because they dry so fast but sometimes I really want the look of sculpted brushstrokes that I can only get with oil paints so Cobra is the best option.

I used a combination of flat brushes, round brushes, filberts and brights. Some were synthetic sable others were synthetic bristle.

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