Materials list for acrylic pet portrait painting class with Maggie Ruley

Paints

These are the colors I consider essential for acrylic painting:

naphthol red medium or cadmium red medium

 azo yellow medium or cadmium yellow medium

phthalo blue

 phthalo green

Dioxizine purple

 titanium white

For pet portraits, you might want to add some browns and/or earth tones  and a black that corresponds to the colors of you pet.

Such as:

Ivory Black

Burnt umber

Burnt sienna

Yellow ochre

Terra Cotta

Student grade paints are acceptable, except for white.  If at all possible buy a good quality white paint, such as Liquitex or Golden.

Brushes

Brushes are sold by size, shape and what they are made of. I like white nylon brights or natural bristle brights. For this project I recommend,

#4 bright

#6 bright

#8 bright

#2 round - a small brush for details

A palette to mix your paints.

If you don't have a professional acrylic palette, styrofoam plates can be used.  You will probably use 2 or 3 each session.  I save the styrofoam trays that meat and vegetables come in from the grocery store and use those.

Canvas

A stretched canvas, your choice of size. While canvas panels are more economical, the poor quality of the canvas makes them harder to paint on.

A good photograph of your pet.

See the pet photography tips below and remember your pet's personality is going to come through the eyes in most cases. So choose a photo where you can see the eyes. This should be printed out. It is hard to paint from the small image on your phone. If you don't have a printer the UPS Store or Office Max can print from a flash drive.

Note to beginning students or those who are not confident in their drawing ability: buy an 8" x 10" canvas and print your photo 8 x 10.

Other supplies

Rags or paper towels

An apron or clothes you don't care about

Pencil and eraser

Sketch pad or paper

Pet photography tips

Adjustments can be made for shadows or poor lighting, however, better pet photos usually translate into superior pet portrait paintings.

1. Shoot from pet’s eye level or below by sitting on the floor or lying on your belly. Try NOT to take the photo from above your pet as such photos are often disappointing.

2. Use natural lighting either outside or indoors by the light of a nearby window & avoid flash.

3. Get close to your pet and focus on their eyes.

4. Be patient. Have someone attract your pet’s attention behind you while you shoot or hold a treat in your hand close to the camera. Try making a high pitched tone or whistle to get them in an alert pose.

Where to buy supplies

In town:

Ben Franklin Island Crafts ( their supply of materials is always spotty)

Keys Framing and Art Supplies (on Truman Ave) [http://www.keysframing.com](http://www.keysframing.com/)

On line:

Jerry's Artarama   [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com/)

Dick Blick   [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com/)

Cheap Joe's   [www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com/)