

Oil Painting with Nicolas Chen

Thank you for enrolling in **Oil Painting with Nicolas Chen**. We're looking forward to helping you grow your skills in oil painting, whether you're a beginner or a more experienced artist.

Below are the key class details and a list of materials you'll need.

Class Overview

This class covers oil painting fundamentals and more advanced techniques, with a focus on:

- Still life
- Portraits
- Figure studies

If you're new to oil painting, you'll begin with black and white exercises before progressing to full colour and your skills develop. A live model will be used in some sessions.

Prior drawing experience is recommended but not required.

Class Schedule

- **Classes 1–3:** Still life painting (black & white)
- **Classes 4–6:** Still life painting (in colour)
- **Classes 7–8:** Figure painting (in colour)
- **Classes 9–10:** Portrait painting (in colour)

Please note: The order of topics may change slightly.

Materials List

Drawing Tools

- Charcoal and kneadable eraser *Or* thinned paint can be used to sketch in the composition

Brushes

- Use any brushes you already have
- A variety of small to medium brushes is ideal (approx. 3–4cm wide to 0.5cm or smaller)
- Long handle, Hog hair, Filberts are recommended, but use what you're most comfortable with

Paints

- If you already own oil paints, feel free to bring them.
- Recommended colours include:
 - Burnt Sienna
 - Titanium White
 - Ivory Black
 - Cadmium Red
 - Alizarin Crimson
 - Cadmium Yellow
 - Cadmium Lemon
 - Cobalt Blue
 - Ultramarine Blue

If you are a beginner and would like to complete all the exercises in black and white only that is perfectly fine too.

If you are on a budget, student-grade paints are fine too (e.g. *Gamblin 1980*, *Winton*, etc.)

Cleaning Supplies

- Airtight brush washer or sealed jar for solvent (small size is fine). [Example: Metal Brush Washer – Senior Art Supplies](#)
- Odourless solvent (e.g. *Gamsol*)
- Brush cleaning soap for cleaning brushes at home

Painting Surface

- Stretched canvas (primed cotton or linen) or Canvas boards (NEEF primed cotton or linen boards are reliable) Some suggested sizes - 16"x20", 12"x16"
- Avoid the cheap two dollar store canvases and boards as they are too absorbent.

Other Items

- Palette knife
- Palette
- Dipper cup
- Small bottle of linseed oil
- Paper towels

Regarding brush cleaning

There are many ways to care for brushes. Personally I use an oil bath of an economical artist grade linseed oil to keep my brushes from drying out between sessions. Occasionally I will rinse them in solvent and wash them in soap and warm water. The following link is a useful guide to the process:

[Quang Ho Brush Cleaning](#)