

SUPPLIES FOR PAINTING WITH ANDREW WYETH: TECHNIQUES IN EGG TEMPERA
WITH BARBARA THOMAS, THE FARNSWORTH MUSEUM, ZOOM WORKSHOP

Dear Students:

Below is a list and some info on supplies for Egg Tempera painting;

Though Wyeth (and those before him) used powdered pigment, unless you are already familiar with its use, I would recommend against it. The fine powder is hard to control and also can be toxic if not used with extreme care. "His procedure is to make a monochrome underpainting in black ink. The colors, applied over this black and white, have a quality of weight and depth preferred to the result of direct painting in color. This is in accordance with the traditional method of old masters who used this medium."

--American Artist Magazine, 1942

You can use any watercolors you have: tubes or pan watercolors. Gouache if you have is fine too. If you need to buy watercolors, please buy tube Winsor Newton, Holbein, Schmincke, or other high quality brand. You can order these on websites: blickart.com, jerrysartarama.com or other. You will only need these basics: **Ultramarine Blue, Cerulean Blue, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson, Cadmium Yellow, and Titanium or Permanent White**. From these colors you will be able to mix any colors you want. If you want you can get **Sap Green** or some equivalent. These are organic, non-synthetic pigments, the best for our use.

Below: Please read this interesting post on tempera substrates. This supply store Jacksonart has pre-gessoed boards that are correct for Tempera painting. If you are absolutely unable to get these boards, you can use a good heavyweight smooth watercolor paper: Arches 140 or 300 lb Hot Press paper is good. (Do not get Cold Press, you need a smooth surface). Get a surface no smaller than 9 x 12". Ideally 11 x 14" is good. Or square, 14 x 14" or so.

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/blog/2017/11/07/sinopia-chalk-ground-casein-gesso-egg-tempera/>

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/en-us/surface/boards-panels/gesso-boards>

Selection of brushes: Synthetic watercolor brushes (short handle) are good. Rounds are the most useful shape. Size #10, #6 #4 is a good selection, add any other sizes and shapes you want, perhaps one larger flat, 1" or so. A #2 for very fine work.

India Ink: A small jar of ink, India is permanent, don't get watercolor ink.

Palette: A good size aluminum or metal watercolor palette, or a white or glass plate will do!

One pint or quart water container, some paper towels or soft rag.

And, of course, you will need **ONE FRESH EGG YOLK**. You can break your egg yolk just before work session into a small plastic take-out type container with a top, you can store the leftover yolk in the fridge for up to three days.

For your still life props: Look at some Wyeth still life work if you'd like to be inspired by this. Some traditional still life choices are seasonal fruits, veg, and flora (apples, squashes, colored leaves, berry branches, seed pods), Wyeth liked textured old wood, deal table tops, old fabrics, plain bowls or plates. You will be working on this painting for a month. This does not mean you have to let your fruits rot away. Begin with apples or other that you like, establish them in your painting, and then replace them with fresh to use for reference, as you need.

Try to set up in a spot that you can leave your still life set up so you can come to work at it at any time. Tempera is an additive process, takes a lot of time, and lots of detailed brush work.