

ALKYDS

Alkyds are fast drying oil paints. They are made from a mastic of beans (like Liquin) plus drying agents, rather than the slow drying linseed oil of traditional oil paints. They are diluted with white spirits rather than linseed oil & turps.

A thin layer of alkyds is touch dry in 24 hours in our southern heat. Adam will give you help in packing your oil paintings to take home. We recommend that you paint 30x40cm or smaller so that they fit in your suitcase for hull luggage. It is possible to paint larger but you may need a wet panel carrier to transport them.

WE RECCOMEND THAT YOU THINK TWICE ABOUT PAINTING IN ACRYLICS.

Because they are dry within two or three minutes in our southern heat! Your palette becomes hard & unworkable. Try keeping them liquid & runny with retarders & glazing mediums. Try to paint more like watercolour. Avoid thick bodied acrylics in the heat. If you do chose acrylics, bring your own materials ... a 'stay wet' palette and expect to spray lots!

Alkyds are 'open' & workable for a few hours:

"All colours in the range remain workable on the palette for 4 to 8 hours, and are touch dry on the canvas in 18 to 24 hours. The drying time will be affected by the thickness of the paint and the temperature of the environment, however." - (Winsor & Newton)



Trouble-Free Travel

We offer the possibility of 'renting' a complete set of alkyd or oil paint. You can also pre-order canvas boards in advance from us. Just bring your own brushes & sketchbook.

Cost is 35 Euros

What is included :

- A set of Winsor & Newton alkyds & Winsor & Newton Student oil paints, that you squeeze out on your palette.

The 'Split-Primaries' Palette (a warm & a cool of each primary colour) :

- Permanent Rose (for flowers & portraits) or alizarin crimson (for landscape)
- Cadmium Red Pale hue
- Cerulean Blue Hue
- French Ultramarine Blue
- Winsor Yellow
- Winsor Lemon Yellow
- Now add a few other additional colours for landscape:
- Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ochre, Sap Green, Light Red, Naples Yellow, Winsor Violet etc

- White spirits for diluting (you're painting outside for most of the time, so the odours are quickly blown away).

- Liquin medium.

- A palette.

Plus the 'painting furniture' :

- An apron

- A dipper jar

- A painting easel

- A stool or a chair

- rags

What is not included :

CANVAS BOARDS

5 or 6 canvas boards (not stretched canvases), size 30 x 40 cm (16x12 inches) or 24 x 30 cm (10x12 inches). Pay attention to weave & the quality of the primer... A reputable brand should be OK. You can pre-order these from Adam at your cost (he will buy them for you & pack them into his car). Canvas paper is good for learning exercises! Stretched canvases risk getting damaged in transit.

BRUSHES for oils & alkyds.

The right size for painting 30x40cm. (below are UK brush sizes)

2 or 3 Short Flat Brights, hog hair, size 2 to 4 if you paint small, size 3 to 5 if you paint large.

2 or 3 Long Flat, hog hair, size 4 to 6.

1 Filbert, hog hair, size 5.

1 or 2 small pointed brushes, prolene/nylon or sable.

1 large round, hog hair.

1 wide flat wash/varnish hog or nylon. Use for transparent glazes, blending & varnishing.

A DRAWING KIT & A5 SKETCHBOOK

Characteristics of Alkyd Paint by Katherine Tryell

Here's a summary of the characteristics and performance of alkyd paint.

- Takes less time to dry - if you compare alkyds to conventional oil paint the principle difference lies in the drying time. They dry much faster than oils and much slower than acrylics. Paintings can be completed in one session. Glazing and impasto techniques take much less time. **Thin layers are dry within 24 hours.**

All colours in the range remain workable on the palette for 4 to 8 hours, and are touch dry on the canvas in 18 to 24 hours. The drying time will be affected by the thickness of the paint and the temperature of the environment, however. (Windsor & Newton)

- Dry at a consistent rate across the range - different colours of conventional oil paints dry at different rates - depending on a colour and its constituents. Alkyds dry at a consistent rate across the whole range of colours. It's possible to build up glazes during the course of a day

- Less time to work - the corollary of drying faster is naturally that artists have less time to work with the paint than if they were using conventional oil paint. However they have much more time than they would have if using acrylics

- Alkyds combine well with conventional oil paints - alkyd resin and linseed oil bind well together hence you can combine alkyd paint with conventional oil paints with very acceptable results. If not used as a main paint, they can make an excellent base for oil paint

However although oils can be layered over alkyds, it's not recommended that alkyds are layered over oils

Oil painting with Griffin Alkyd Fast Drying Oil Colour requires attention to three conventional oil painting rules:

1. Fat over lean (flexible over less flexible). When oil painting in layers, each successive layer must be more flexible than the one underneath. This rule is maintained by adding more medium (e.g. Liquid) to each successive layer.
2. Thick over thin. Thick layers of oil colour are best applied over thin under-layers.
3. Due to differences in flexibility, never use Griffin Alkyd Colour on top of conventional oil colours unless the oil colour is completely dry (6-12 months). Conventional oils may, however, be used over Griffin Alkyd Colour.

- The consistency in some colours is different - but I guess this depends on which colours you use and compared to what

On a scale of 1 to 10 — where 1 is pure plastic and 10 is oil — I would say that acrylics are about a 3 and alkyds are an 8. Some painters describe some of the alkyd colours as sticky

- Similar life spans - light-fastness and archival qualities depend on the performance of the pigments and chemical used. For those most part, these are identical to artist grade oil colours and are good quality paints.

- More transparent - alkyds are less opaque and more transparent than conventional oil paints

- Less likely to sink - According to Wu&N....

The alkyd molecule is larger than that of linseed oil so it maintains a film on surfaces which may tend to be more absorbent.

- Matte surface - Gambling states that its alkyd paint dries matte. Windsor & Newton put it slightly differently - but it might mean the same thing!

Alkyd colours dry to a more even reflective surface than traditional oils.

- Harder paint surface when dry - which makes it very durable

- **Squeeze out only as much as you need - the quick drying time means they won't be available to use the next day**

- Alkyd paintings should not be varnished for three months - despite being touch dry the next day

The main issue for artists in general appears to be whether you can achieve the same effect with normal oil paints and Liquid. The answer appears to be Yes.

The issue for me is with two cats at home who like to sit up close and get involved with the artwork plus the need to transport wet paintings in my car when painting plein air, I'd rather focus on using paint which has got the drying agent already mixed in! I'm also more used to producing lots of sketches and fewer formal pieces and it seems to me alkyds are admirably well suited to those who like to sketch.

The fast drying rate of the colors makes them well suited for plein air painters, especially while traveling and transporting freshly painted work.

Gamblin

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<http://www.robertbdance.com/PaintingAlkyds.html>