

Painting with Acrylics

Week One

Explore Color. Play with paint.

Kimberly Sullivan Studio

Brushes & Paint Bodies:
How brushes and paint thickness affect line
and edge

Color Mixing: Primary → Secondary + Tints

Texture & Application:
Creating varied surfaces through
brushwork and painting exercises

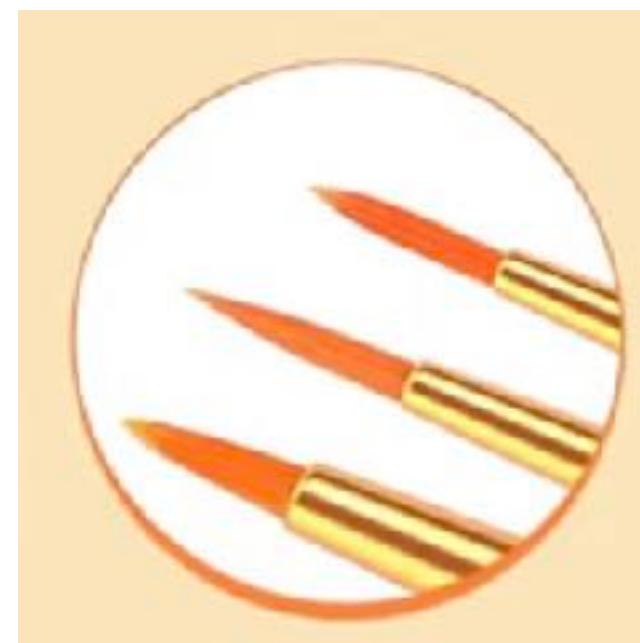
Brushes & Paint

Line Detail

Rounder Rigger

Filbert

Flat Shader



Tools of the Trade

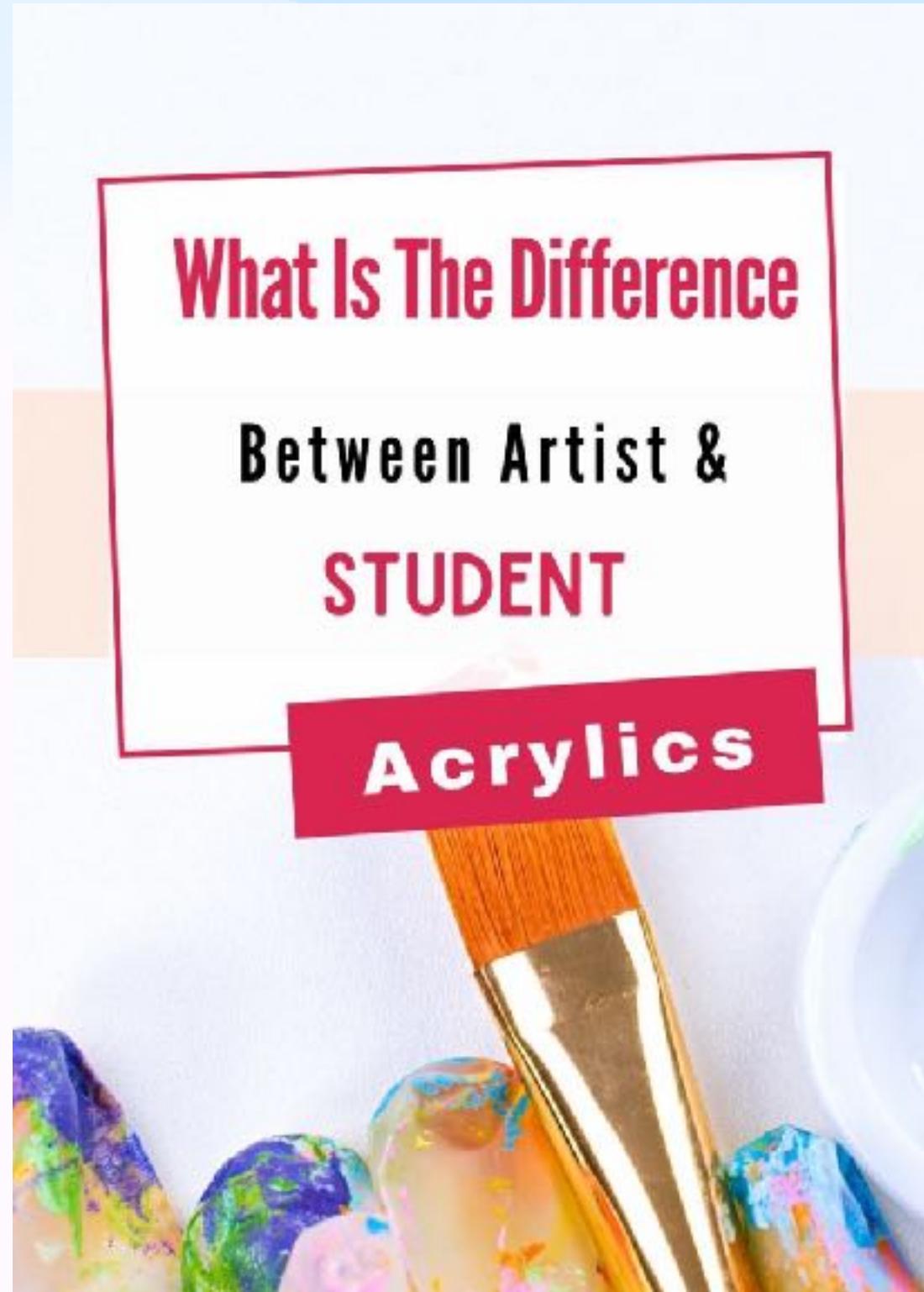
Brushes & Acrylic Paint

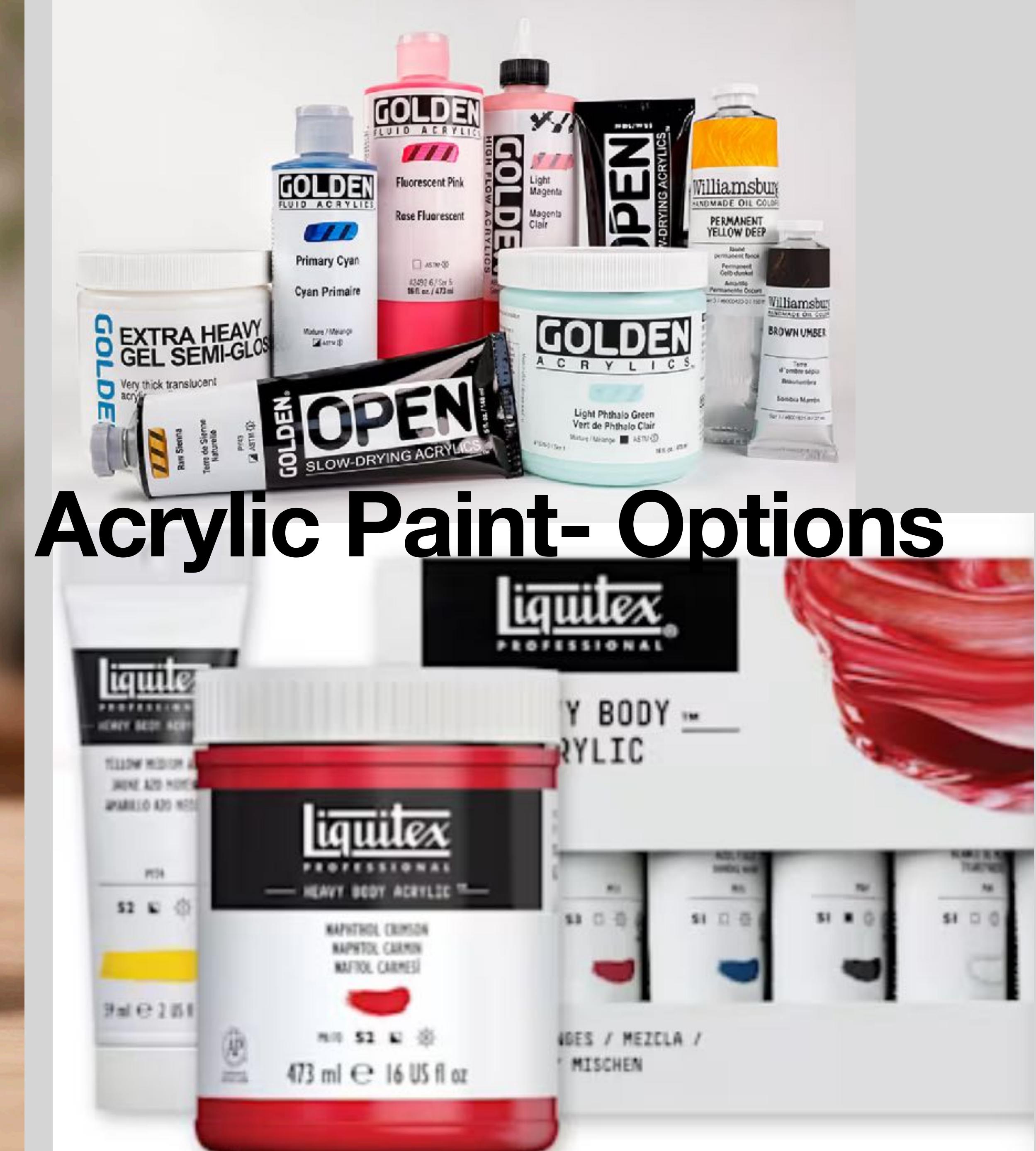
Brush Basics

- Round brushes: good for lines, details, expressive marks
- Flat brushes: great for filling larger areas and creating crisp edges
- Brush sizes (numbers): smaller number = smaller brush, larger number = bigger brush

Acrylic Paint Basics

- Student grade: affordable, great for practice and learning
- Professional grade: higher pigment, richer color
- Medium body acrylic: smooth, versatile for most techniques
- Heavy body acrylic: thicker, holds texture and brush marks







YELLOW

RED

BLUE

Primary Colors (Hues)

BRUSHWORK Challenge

Select different brushes



Try MANY brush strokes and styles

- Flat Fill (smooth, even color – try a larger brush)
- Expressive Strokes -let your brush marks show
- Dry Brush (light pressure for broken texture)
- Soft Blend (gently blend two colors)
- Crisp Edge (clean, sharp edges)

Painting Surfaces we are using today

Paper

Acrylic and mixed media papers are designed to handle wet paint without buckling

Look for heavier weight papers

Hot press = smoother surface (great for detail, smoother blends)

Cold press = more texture (brush marks show more)

Acrylic and mixed media papers are made specifically for heavier paints

Paper surfaces are great for practice, studies, and warm-ups



Color Mixing Guidelines

We are using PRIMARY COLORS ONLY
Red • Blue • Yellow

Today we are starting with:

- At least ONE primary color
- At least ONE secondary color

(Orange = red + yellow | Green = blue + yellow | Purple = red + blue)

Texture Exploration

- Try a texture plate in one or two areas
- Experiment with light vs. firm pressure
- Notice how texture changes how the color looks

Mixing Tips

- Start with small amounts of paint
- Add the darker color little by little
- If it goes muddy, wipe and remix
- No two mixes are exactly the same (that's okay)



Mixing primary colors together results in a **secondary** color, as shown below.



YELLOW
(PRIMARY)

+ RED
(PRIMARY)

= ORANGE
(SECONDARY)



YELLOW
(PRIMARY)

+ BLUE
(PRIMARY)

= GREEN
(SECONDARY)



RED
(PRIMARY)

+ BLUE
(PRIMARY)

= PURPLE
(SECONDARY)

The secondary colors—orange, green, and purple—can be mixed with each other or any of the primary colors to create other colors.

Secondary Colors

Tints

Using White to Make Lighter Colors

What is a Tint?

- Any color + white = a lighter version of that color (a tint)

Important Reminders

- White does NOT make new colors
- White changes value (lightness), not the color family

Why Use Tints?

- Create highlights
- Create softer areas
- Create light vs. dark contrast

Try at least one tint on your panel today.

Painting Surfaces we are using today

Canvas Panel: (Flat & Firm Surface)

Canvas panels are made by mounting canvas fabric onto a rigid board. They provide a flat, sturdy surface that doesn't flex while you paint, making them great for beginners who are learning brush control and edge work. Canvas panels are lightweight, affordable, easy to store, and ideal for studies, practice pieces, and class projects.

Canvas Panel Challenge

Paint & Blending



+



+



=



RED

GREEN

BROWN

NEXT WEEK- Color Theory



+



+



=



ORANGE

BLUE

PURPLE

BROWN