

Goals and Guidelines - Oil Class with Mary Reilly, Creative Brush Studio

My goal is to teach oil painting and have you create incredible paintings! I want you to become very comfortable with oils, the different colors and brushes, and to learn the various techniques necessary for textures and effects, as well as learn about the elements and principles of design and apply them to your paintings. My goal is for you to become a wonderful artist! **A positive work environment with minimal distractions will help us reach that goal.** With that in mind, please review the following class guidelines.

1. **Cell phones and phone conversations can be very distracting to others.**

- During class, please turn **your cell phone off or on vibrate**. If you do get a call or need to make a call, please leave the room to speak.

2. **Better Paintings will result when created in a POSITIVE, stress-free environment.**

- Because my students comprise of a broad range of political views and opinions on life - from extreme left to extreme right. Please do NOT discuss:
 - Your political views or controversial or “hot” topics.
 - Any topics that can cause stress, controversy, hurt feelings, sadness.
 - There is a lot going on in the world, let’s **not** discuss the news in the classroom!
 - The classroom is to be a “safe” place where EVERYONE is comfortable and stress-free.
 - Please, ONLY “G-Rated” language and conversations.
 - **The classroom is our happy place. ☺ Having a positive “happy” environment for all will only be possible if everyone cooperates.**

3. **Being in the “zone” while painting produces better results!**

- You create with the right side of your brain and talk with the left side. You can’t talk and be creative at the same time.
- A quiet focused environment is great for painting! Even if you are not in the zone, others might be. Please keep chatting to a minimum so others will not be distracted.

4. **Be successful, set goals, both daily and long term.**

- **One definition of “success” is “reaching an aim or purpose.”** With that in mind, if you know where you want to go, you will know when you get there.
- To help you stay on track and be focused, here are 3 goal categories (with examples):

1. *Set a goal of what you want to accomplish during the next six week class session.*

- If you are new to painting, your goal might simply be to learn how to handle oil paint.
- Perhaps your goal is to better handle your gradation of color or value, or better proportions.
- If you are working on portraiture, your goal might be to improve on how to paint eyes, or better hair.

2. *Next, set a goal for what you want to accomplish with the specific painting you are working on?*

- Ask yourself, “why do I want to paint this?”
- Maybe you want to capture the texture of the objects. Perhaps a sense of light or a mood.

3. *Lastly, each time you are at your easel, ask yourself, “What do I want to accomplish today?” “What do I want to accomplish in the next hour?”*

- Today’s goal is simply to get the initial sketch on the canvas, and then wash in the tone.
- To first capture the reflections in the windows, and then put highlights on the street.
- Today’s goal is to finish the sky, and then work on the building.

***“As practice makes perfect, I cannot but make progress;
each drawing one makes, each study one paints, is a step forward.” Vincent van Gogh***