



# MANIFEST DRAWING CENTER

## PERSONAL COLOR: PAINTING THE FIGURE WITH A MIXING MATRIX

Instructed by Neil Callander

### MATERIALS LISTS

#### Personal Color: Painting the Figure with a Mixing Matrix

July 25 - 27, 2025

#### Course Description

This immersive three-day workshop invites artists to explore the expressive potential of figure painting beyond traditional representation. Through guided exercises, engaging slide lectures, and focused critique sessions, participants will examine how a painted figure can communicate meaning that extends beyond physical likeness or identity. The figure will be considered through a range of imaginative lenses: as loosely-bound stardust, a structure of dynamic volumes, a presence interacting with its environment, and a metaphor open to interpretation.

Participants will build their own artistic voice by developing and mastering a personalized limited palette. Using a structured color-mixing matrix, you will complete a series of small-scale paintings from live models, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between color, form, and mark-making. The workshop will also explore the concept of “resolution” in figurative painting—what it means and how to achieve it through a range of technical and conceptual approaches.

You’ll strengthen your observational painting skills, learn to create intentional color strategies, and unlock the expressive power of a limited palette. The course also emphasizes understanding cool and warm relationships in light and shadow, grasping the conception of mass in the figure, managing edge quality, and developing a refined vocabulary for discussing and critiquing figurative work.

#### Materials List:

##### Oil Paints

Bring an extensive selection of quality oil and/or acrylic paints. This workshop emphasizes developing a personalized limited palette, so variety is essential. Students are encouraged to share and exchange colors with peers.

## **Medium**

Bring diverse painting mediums suitable for both layering and wet-into-wet techniques. Students are encouraged to share mediums with peers. Recommended materials include:

- Linseed or walnut oil
- Stand oil
- Alkyd medium
- Cold wax
- Marble dust
- Extender medium

## **Surfaces**

Prepare at least twelve small painting substrates with white grounds. Recommended sizes: 5x6", 10x12", 15x18" (1:1.2 ratio preferred)

Options include:

- Wood panels (cradled or uncradled)
- Primed linen or canvas (stretched or unstretched)
- Arches oil paper

\*Additional surfaces will be provided.

## **Brushes and Knives**

- Multiple palette knives (recommended: Liquitex freestyle #5)
- Diverse brush selection varying in size, shape, and bristle type

## **Other Materials**

- Large palette (preferably glass, 18x24" or larger)
- White artist tape
- Viva paper towels or soft cotton rags

## **Cincinnati Art Stores**

### **Suder's Art Store**

1309 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202  
(513) 241-0800

### **Plaza Art - Clifton**

230 W. McMillan Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
513-861-0667

### **Plaza Art - Kenwood**

8118 Montgomery Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45236  
513-793-5300