

PAINTING I: ART-120, Fall 2025, M/W 3-5:40pm (4 units, no prerequisite)

This course counts toward the Painting, Drawing and Two-Dimensional Studies Minors



Details from ART-120 student paintings

In this course, students will learn how to paint so that each may gain the facility to deeply explore painting and all its possibilities. Students learn to use painting materials and processes as they hone skills for visual perception, dexterity, creative problem solving and conceptual development. The first paintings created are based on direct observation, with freedom to develop meaning on a personal level. We will explore the technical and formal aspects of painting including value, color and temperature relationships, color mixing, brush and paint handling, medium usage, indirect and direct painting techniques, composition, and more. As the semester progresses, there is a growing emphasis on content through artistic expression, experimentation, and the development of personal ideas and aesthetics through idea-based prompts.

The class is further structured around group discussions, critiques, a field trip, and slide presentations of diverse contemporary and historical works to investigate a range of concepts addressed *through* painting and conceptual ideas *about* painting, including “non-traditional” approaches that expand our ideas of what painting can be. The class is primarily taught using oils; however, students will learn the differences between oils, acrylics and water-mixable oils and students may work across both water-based and solvent-based mediums.

ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE ARE WELCOME (even none!)

Please do not hesitate to email with any questions:
Assistant Professor Karen Liebowitz: kliebowi@usc.edu



Painting from the model

Painting en plein air

Class critique of a multi-panel painting

More student work examples, ranging from direct observational painting of objects/scenes (limited palette and full color) to “landscape”-based imagery to self-portraits to figure-model to final projects! Follow [@roski2d](#) on Instagram and check out [#liebowitzpainting120](#) to see more student work!

