

Painting: Spring into Color

Ruby Red Workshop

April 8th – 29th, 2025

Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Educator: Sarah Shay, sahrshay@gmail.com

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$130 / Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-70.*

Class Description:

Spring reawakens our sense of wonder and attention, inviting the imagination to grow wild. In this class, students will respond to the constantly changing colors and forms of Spring. Students will use the versatility of acrylic paint as a medium to capture their observations and imaginations in a series of small-scale paintings on paper.

What to Expect:

Students will move between the Studio and the Museum collection to develop a series of small, experimental paintings over the course of 4 weeks. The class will explore how different artists, such as Simphiwe Ndzube and Maria van Oosterwyck, create very different compositions that capture the unpredictable nature of Spring. In the Studio, focus will be on experimentation with a wide range of techniques in using acrylic medium to bring these studies together into a harmonious final painting.

Timeline:

Week 1

- Introductions, basic materials introduction and experiments.

Week 2

- DAM collection visit. Found and felt lines.

Week 3

- DAM collection visit, color mixing, natural shapes and collage.

Week 4

- Building harmony in a final composition.

Class Make-up Day Policy:

If a class or workshop needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a “make-up” day will be scheduled on a FRIDAY or SATURDAY as the educator’s schedule allows.

Materials:

Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-70*.

We partner with [Meininger's](#) for local shopping, purchase a kit of your required materials online for in-store pickup, or purchase the below items individually.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Acrylic paint set	1	Liquitex BASICS Acrylic Paint Set
Paintbrush set	1	Princeton RealValue Paintbrushes
Paint marker set	1	Posca Paint Markers
Paper towels	2 rolls	Brawny Tear-A-Square Paper Towels
Matte fluid medium	1 bottle	Liquitex BASICS Matte Fluid Medium

*All materials will be demonstrated in the first class. Participants are encouraged to wait until after the first class to purchase materials.

Educator:

Sarah Shay is a Denver-based artist. Shay paints in order to slow down and pay attention to the spaces where our personal lives and collective experiences connect. Shay studied Photography and Anthropology at the University of Iowa, and Community Arts and Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Teaching and learning are at the core of her artistic practice, with teaching experience in K-12, Higher Education, and community-based programming in Colorado. <https://www.instagram.com/sarahshaystudio/>

Local Denver Area Materials Resources

Fine Art materials

Meininger Art Material*
Guiry's

General Art & Craft materials

Michaels
Walmart
ReCreative

Fibers

Fancy Tiger
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Blazing Star Ranch

Reuse/Second-hand materials

ARC
Goodwill

Habitat for Humanity Restore
Gone for Good
ReCreative
K&K Surplus
Queen City Salvage

Tools & Hardware

Home Depot
Lowes
Habitat for Humanity Restore
K&K Surplus

Sculpting materials

Reynolds Advanced Materials
Western Sculpting Supply

Online Resources

* The DAM partners with Meininger's for local shopping. A kit of your required materials can be purchased online for pick-up in store.

Ruby Room Policies

Cleanup:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage in the equipment closet. Students will also need to take home all their own materials after each class. Make sure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours and open studio hours. Please contact the Manager of Creative and Public Engagement, Sarah Rockett, if you need to arrange entrance to the Ruby Room outside of those hours – srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

Material Usage:

Approved Processes & Materials

- All materials that are non-toxic and non-flammable
- Chalk/charcoal/compressed powder-based drawing materials
- Loose powder-based drawing/painting materials – i.e. powdered graphite, powdered pigment
- Loose powder-based 3D materials – i.e. plaster, alginate
- Clay – air drying only
- Oil paints & oil medium
- Adhesives
- Odorless mineral spirits – in small amounts
- Acetone – in small amounts
- Hot plates – for encaustic or use w/ wax-based process
- Hot glue & hot glue guns

Please ask if you are unsure about using certain materials in the workshop.

Restricted Processes & Materials:

- Aerosols
 - No spray paint onsite
 - Fixatives and finishing sprays can be used outside with the use of a drop cloth.
- Saws/Wood cutting
- Organic materials
- Any materials that off-gas or produce a pungent smell will require prior approval.

Flammable Materials:

STORAGE: Any flammable materials left in the classroom must be stored in the flammable materials cabinet when not in use. This includes all aerosol products, mineral spirits, acetone, etc.

DISPOSAL: Please use the flammables disposal container to dispose of all flammable materials or rags, paper towels, etc. that have been saturated with flammable materials. Do not put these items in the regular trash can or down the sink. This includes materials such as mineral spirits, acetone, paint thinner, oil paint, etc.

Disposal of Viscous Materials:

- **Paint:** Scrape or wipe large amounts of paint into the trash can. Remaining paint may be washed down the sink. Make sure that paint does not sit and dry on the bottom of the sink. Use sponges to wash out the sink, and run water for 1-2 minutes after paint disposal.
- **Plaster:** Dispose of wet plaster into the trash can. Leave container to dry, and crack remaining plaster into the trash once it is dry. Hands and tools used for plaster may be washed in the sink with water running 1-2 minutes after washing.
- **Clay:** Remove wet/dry clay from hands and tools as much as possible before washing in sink. Run water in sink for 1-2 minutes following washing.

Safety:

Teachers and students are responsible for practicing safe work habits at all times, as improper use of tools could cause injury. Please work intelligently, safely, and follow all safety guidelines.

- Teachers and students are only to use equipment and tools that they either already know how to use or have been instructed how to use. If you have a question about how to operate any equipment, please ask!
- Work smart, pace yourself, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Safety glasses, safety goggles, nitrile gloves, and dust masks are available upon request.