

Painting: Acrylic Color Theory

Ruby Red Workshop

Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

August 28 – September 18, 2025

Educator: Moe Gram, momoegram@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This 4-week class introduces students to the fundamentals of color theory through acrylic painting techniques. Participants will explore the color wheel, learn about color relationships such as complementary and analogous colors, and gain hands-on experience mixing paints to create dynamic compositions. The class will focus on applying color theory to enhance mood, depth, and visual harmony in artwork while developing acrylic painting skills such as layering, blending, and texture creation. This class is ideal for beginners and intermediate artists and will provide both technical knowledge and creative freedom to experiment with color in a supportive environment.

Pricing:

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

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

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum 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.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email Access@DenverArtMuseum.org at least ten (10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials spend is \$50-70.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Acrylics basic paint set (red, blue, yellow, white, black)	1 set	Liquitex Basics Acrylic Fluid Paint Set
Paint brushes	1 set	Blick Scholastic Golden Taklon Brushes and Sets
Heavy weighted paper OR canvas paper (136 lbs)	2 pads	Canson Foundation Canva-Paper Pads
Pencils	1 box	Dixon Ticonderoga Pencil Set

What to Expect:

Students can expect to dive into the world of color theory through a hands-on approach using acrylic painting techniques. Students will begin by visiting museum galleries to explore various artworks and develop inspiration for unique color palettes. Through these visits, students will learn how to identify and extract color combinations that resonate with them. Back in the studio, students will practice color mixing and matching to build confidence in creating the perfect hues for their paintings. The class will also encourage personal exploration, helping each student identify their own color preferences and how to incorporate them into their artwork. By the end of the 4 weeks, students will have a deeper understanding of color relationships, enhanced acrylic painting skills, and the ability to express their creative vision through thoughtful use of color.

Timeline:

Week 1 – Introduction to Color Theory & Inspiration Gathering

- Overview of color theory fundamentals: primary, secondary, and tertiary colors, color wheel.

- Discussion of color relationships: complementary, analogous, and triadic colors.
- Field trip to museum galleries: Study of artwork for color palette inspiration.
- Reflect and sketch: Begin identifying color schemes based on museum visit.
- Homework: Start a color journal to collect color ideas and notes.

Week 2 – Color Mixing & Matching Techniques

- Review of color relationships and color wheel.
- Hands-on demonstration: Mixing acrylic paints to create custom colors.
- Practice matching and blending colors to develop a cohesive palette.
- Work on initial painting exercises using mixed colors.
- Homework: Refine color palette ideas and work on color mixing exercises at home.

Week 3 – Exploring Personal Color Preferences

- Discussion: The emotional impact of colors and how they influence artwork.
- Guided studio time: Focus on developing a personal color palette.
- Experimentation with combining colors based on individual preferences.
- Group critique: Share and discuss progress with peers.
- Homework: Begin a small painting project using the personal color palette.

Week 4 – Finalizing Projects & Applying Color Theory in Acrylics

- Review of key color theory concepts and acrylic painting techniques.
- Studio time: Finalize the personal painting project using color palettes developed over the course.
- One-on-one feedback from the instructor as students work on their final pieces.
- Final group critique and reflection: Discuss how color choices shaped each student's work.
- Class wrap-up: Tips for continuing color exploration and acrylic painting after the course.

Educator:

Moe Gram is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Denver, CO. She works in a diverse array of mediums that include murals, collages, large-scale

installations, set design, and experimental works. Gram graduated from California State University Bakersfield with a major in Studio Visual Arts and a minor in Cultural Studies, during which, she participated in a 6-month museum studies and studio art program in Florence, Italy. Currently, Gram's art can be seen in murals throughout Colorado, an installation in the Denver Art Museum's Creative Hub, Empower Field at Mile High, and at various locations throughout the Denver metro area and the state of Colorado. In 2022 Gram participated in a residency through the La Napoule Art Foundation in Mandelieu-La Napoule, France, where she developed her most recent body of work titled *How to Earn Your Big Girl Panties*. This work was exhibited in October 2024 at the University of Northern Colorado. Gram's work is distinctive, engaging, and thoughtful. Her use of found objects and manipulated ready-mades engage in discussions with viewers about themes of empathy and human compassion. Through her playful color palette, messaging, and juxtaposition of unique embellishments and obscure collages, Gram's work encourages the viewer to absorb and reflect- for the betterment of oneself and collectively for us all.

www.moegram.com

WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. You can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

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 on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take

home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – MDeBakker@DenverArtMuseum.org

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM! For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at SalesTeam@DenverArtMuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.