

# Painting: Acrylic Color Theory 2

Ruby Red Workshop  
Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
4-week session, October 29 – November 19, 2026  
Educator: Sarah Shay, [sarahrshay@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrshay@gmail.com)

## CLASS DESCRIPTION

This 4-week class will explore how complex color relationships can be utilized as a meaningful communicative and emotional tool. Building on foundational color theory concepts, the class will focus on how color can be developed as a tool to communicate powerful personal or cultural information and other ideas in one's paintings.

Students will build a working knowledge of color theory and apply a deeper understanding of color to a small series of works built over the course of the class.

### 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 later THURSDAY 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](mailto: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 cost is \$50-70. Additional materials will be supplied.

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 picking up prior to the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Acrylics basic paint set (red, blue, yellow, white, black)	1 set	<a href="#">Liquitex Basics Acrylic Fluid Paint Set</a>
Paint brushes	1 set	<a href="#">Blick Scholastic Golden Taklon Brushes and Sets</a>
Heavy weighted paper OR canvas paper (136 lbs)	2 pads	<a href="#">Canson Foundation Canva-Paper Pads</a>
Palette Paper	1 pad	<a href="#">Richeson Gray Palette Paper Pad</a>

**What to Expect:**

Through museum study, guided experimentation, and focused studio practice, students will refine their palettes, challenge habits, and learn to use color with confidence and clarity. This class is ideal for students who have completed *Acrylic Color Theory 1* or have a basic understanding of color theory and acrylic painting.

**What Makes *Acrylic Color Theory 2* Different:**

Color interaction & optical effects • Limited and intentional palettes • Color hierarchy, dominance, and restraint • Using color to guide the viewer's eye • Concept-driven color decisions

## **Timeline:**

### **Week 1 – Color Theory and Color Relationships**

Theme: Relative Color, Moving past fixed color theory

- Overview: Moving Basic Color into complex color relationships
- Museum visit to explore color relationships
- Studio practice: Color mixing basics, matching color
- Identifying your relationship to color: Observing and documenting color relationships in everyday life

### **Week 2 – Color Constraints, Complex Meaning**

Theme: Less color, more intention

- Discussion: Why artists limit color—and how constraint increases clarity.
- Introduction to Value Grouping and the Limited Palette
- Studio practice: Small scale paintings, exploring how constraints lead to complex, creative paintings.

### **Week 3 – Color as Communicator**

Theme: Color as a confident artistic voice

- Discussion: Color as a language and structure for cultural, emotional, and personal communication in painting
- Mid-process group critique focused on intent vs. impact.
- Homework: Developing and refining color choices with intention.

### **Week 4 – Applying Color Theory in Acrylics**

Theme: Color Relationships and Restraint

- Extended studio time: Apply advanced color decision-making to final painting with focus on refinement, restraint, and clarity.
- Class wrap-up, Strategies for continuing color exploration independently.

## **Educator:**

Sarah Shay is a Denver-based artist. For Sarah, painting is a means of slowing down and nourishing a connection within ourselves and with each other. Sarah studied Photography and Anthropology at the University of Iowa, and Arts and Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Teaching and learning are at the core of Sarah's painting practice, and Sarah has taught in K-12, Higher Education, and community-based programming in Colorado.

<https://www.instagram.com/sarahshaystudio/>

# 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. Students 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](mailto:mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org).

# QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at [mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org) or Sarah Rockett at [srockett@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:srockett@denverartmuseum.org).

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at [info@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:info@denverartmuseum.org) or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!