

EASEL INSIGHT
PODCAST
"Easel Talk"
Show Notes



with
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EPISODE 24 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are acrylics safer than oils? Oil paints are made from pigment and oils, using linseed, poppy seed, or safflower oil. These oils are natural and used in food. Acrylics are pigment and a plastic and made from petroleum, so there isn't a safety advantage from acrylics except in the clean up, acrylics use water not solvent but there are better ways to clean with oils that don't involve solvents like safflower oil and walnut oil.

2. Why does oil separate from the paint in the tube? It's a normal process, not an indication of a cheaper paint. It's caused by age. The longer paint is in a tube, the more chance of the separation of oil. It happens more in larger tubes and can be caused by higher temperatures. So if you live in Tucson, AZ, and store your paint in the garage in the summer, you will have more oil separating.

3. Should I use a cadmium substitute? Some can be good, cadmium orange hue is a diazo orange and yellow iron oxide and works very well, same with cadmium red hue, which is a naphthol red. But these substitutes are weaker and do not have the covering power of a real cadmium so you end up using twice as much paint as you would with cadmiums. If you mix your greens with a blue and yellow I wouldn't use a cadmium substitute for the yellow. Cadmium yellow is the only yellow strong enough to mix greens, the substitutes create a very weak yellow green.

4. Should I use a retouch varnish to paint into a dry painting? You should use something to bind the new layer of painting to the dry one and bring back the original look or value of the dry paint. Retouch varnish is a small amount of dammer varnish and larger amounts of solvent and it's very hard on the lungs and stays tacky too long. There are substitutes to retouch varnish that are safer and easier to work with. Using Gamsol, a non toxic solvent from Gamblin and linseed oil, then wipe off the excess after a few minutes.