

Kansas City Art Institute

Continuing and Professional Studies Safety Manual

Oil Painting – Main Campus

Personal Protective Equipment

- Students will be provided with nitrile gloves
- Students should bring an apron to protect their clothes from contamination.

Using Oil Paints

- Artist's oil paints contain pigments that are highly toxic if absorbed through the skin or ingested.
- Never let any part of the brush come in contact with the mouth, this can cause ingestion of pigments.
- Wash hands periodically throughout each painting class, and wear a barrier cream. You may wish to wear protective latex gloves while painting.
- Never sand oil paintings, this will cause inhalation of pigment particles
- Natural resins (copal, damar, rosin, Japanese Lacquer) may cause skin irritation or allergies. Rosin dust can cause asthma.

Using Solvents

- Solvents are toxic to ingest or absorb through the skin, and create toxic fumes that can cause serious medical problems if inhaled. High concentrations of most solvents can cause dizziness, nausea, fatigue, loss of coordination, or coma.
- Assure proper ventilation when using solvents. In room 106, use labeled light switch to turn on exhaust system for the duration of class.
- Some solvents are more dangerous than others. Never use benzene, benzol, turpentine or mineral spirits. Replace more dangerous solvents with acetone, ethanol, Gamsol or Turpenoid.
- Wear gloves when working with solvents. Change gloves when they become contaminated. Use extreme caution when pouring to avoid spills.
- Never use solvents to clean the hands, wipe them with a clean, dry rag, then wash with soap and water.
- Rags contaminated with solvents should be disposed of in a flammables trashcan, to avoid fire hazards.