

John Singer Sargent: Painting Alla Prima from a Drawing

Supply List:

A 22 x 30 cm canvas or panel toned with a light imprimatura of burnt sienna or yellow ochre and a very small amount of vine or ivory black.

The imprimatura activates the surface of the canvas. It can either be stroked on vertically or in an abstract expressionist manner. Use a very light medium (5 : 1).

Oils: flake white or titanium/zinc white, naples yellow, a pale yellow (i.e., titanium nickel yellow or lead tin yellow or lemon yellow, yellow ochre (pale is good, too), vermilion (or cadmium red medium), burnt sienna, Indian red, cadmium green light (or permanent green light), terre verte (green earth), raw umber and vine or ivory black. Plus whatever colors are in your kit.

Optional: Calcium carbonate (available in most art stores) if you are using professional grade pigments. Do NOT use with student grade paints.

Solvent: Linseed oil or poppy oil, stand oil, turpentine OR if you're intolerant of turpentine use Painters' Mayonnaise—one part egg yolk : one part white vinegar : five parts oil. Shake well until emulsified. Keep refrigerated. Good for one week.

Brushes: A range of medium size round and/or filberts.

Misc.: Rag, paint dipper for medium, wood palette preferred, two painting knives

Download the B/W photo reference: artacademy.com/tv/Sargent-AP.png

I recommend that the reference image be printed out on a high quality photo paper to the size of your canvas, but not larger.

