

Frances Winder

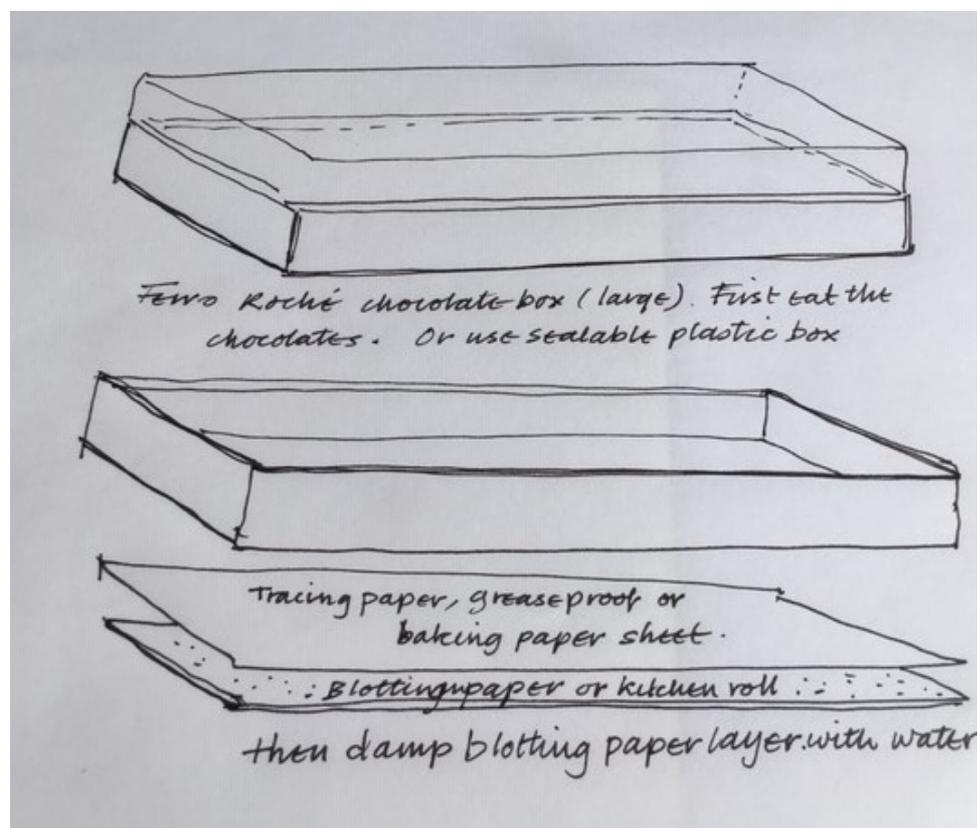
Isolation projects

Two – Creating a stay-wet Palette

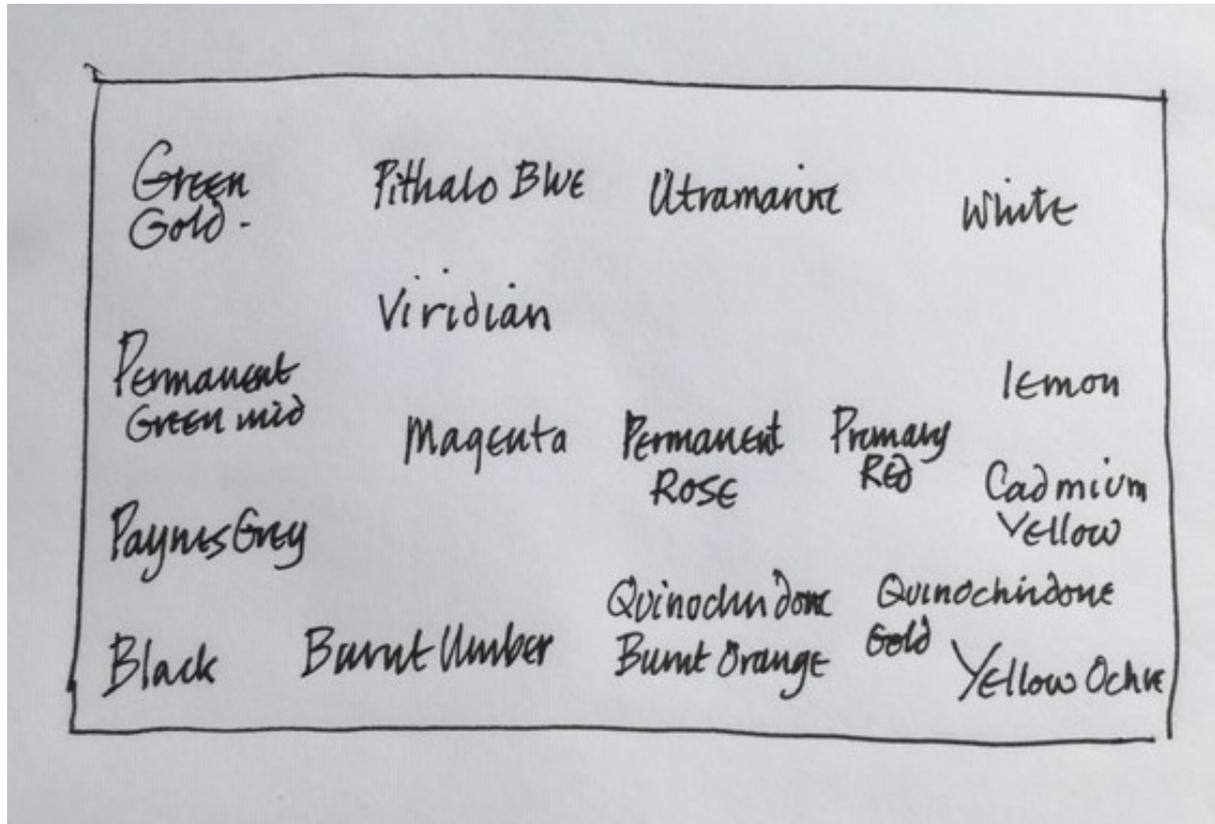
Now that it is harder to get materials, I suggest you might want to make your own stay wet-palette for acrylic paint.

A sealable plastic box or tray to stop the paint drying out is the basic need. The best one I have found suggested by a student is a Ferro Roche box for chocolates. Unfortunately you have to eat all the chocolates first ! These are much stronger plastic than the stay wet palettes that you can buy.

In the base of the box put a piece of kitchen roll or blotting paper dampened, then a piece of tracing paper, or greaseproof or baking paper. On the top of this put out your paints in generous amounts. This will keep the paint damp and usable for at least a week. Keep topping it up, don't throw your paint away ! The dry underlayers of paint will be helpful for a while, refresh the palette by throwing away the whole of the greaseproof /tracing layer, but keep and re-dampen the bottom layer.



I always like to have my paints in a particular order, then even when it is always in a big muddle, I can tell what should be where and that helps me get it back in order. I use the same system for all my paint palettes, watercolour and gouache too.



Choose your own order so that you are comfortable with your own method.

The next thing with acrylic paint is to prime your canvas board or paper with paint,

I use an old soft teatowel scrap or an old portion from a towel to make a soft pad which will fit in my hand, mix a base colour. I like a soft terracotta or a warm ochre colour to unify the picture, there is always a part that shows through. I rub a basecoat all over the card, canvas, or board that you are using so that you create a good bonding link between the ground you are using e.g. canvas, and the paint you are applying.

There are many ways of using this ground and I will go into them in a different post in a short time.

I attach some of my paintings using acrylic paint.



Windy bay



Derwentwater reeds



Aira Force pools