



**Utrecht Art Supplies**

## **Studio Craft: Work Like A Professional Artist**



*Francis Davis Millet with studio assistants ca. 1900*

**Even artists who don't consider themselves professionals can learn some of the habits of full-time pros. Adopting a professional approach when you're making art for fun can help you paint more often and get better results!**

**Schedule Studio Time:** Making art is a lot like learning a language: if you don't practice, you'll never achieve fluency. Reserving studio time each week gives structure to your work and helps maintain sharp skills.

**Use high quality materials:** Use the best colors, brushes, canvas and paper you can afford. Good quality materials make it easier to achieve the results you want and encourage you to work more. Lower-grade materials may have a cheaper per-unit price, but in the end they cost more because they don't go as far and, more importantly, don't handle as well or look as good.

**Develop a critical eye:** Learn to look at your work as though you're an outside observer. When you're having a hard time resolving a piece, put it away for a while. The next time you look at it, you'll have a fresh eye and it'll be easier to get the results you want.

**Take presentation seriously:** If a painting is worth framing, it's worth framing well. A good frame can't improve a painting, but a bad frame can ruin a good one. Presentation materials don't have to be expensive to complement and enhance your art as long as you choose them as carefully as you crafted your work.

**Take good photographs:** Keep a good photographic record of your work. It's easy to achieve great results with moderately priced cameras or even cell phones.

**Keep a sketchbook:** An artist's sketchbook is a private place to experiment, play and practice without outside criticism. Keep yours with you all the time, and fill it with the ideas that will become full-fledged artwork later.

**Value your work:** Right now you may think making art is more of a pleasant diversion than a serious vocation, but don't undervalue how much of yourself and your time is invested. Don't throw anything away- keep your finished art so you can see how far you've come later. If you give away your work for free, make sure it goes to a worthy cause or to someone you know will treasure it.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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