

REFERENCES

1.

As with anything technical, different authors tend to give slightly different advice, so one may need to look at numerous books to compare advice, and then make up one's own mind.

I think these first five titles cover most of what you need to know.

"The Artist's Handbook" by Ray Smith. This book has coloured illustrations and is quite comprehensive. I recommend getting the hardback version, as that version is easier to use as a text and reference book in the studio. This is a good book to start with.

The original "Artist's Handbook of Materials and Techniques" by Ralph Mayer is my main reference book for technical information. The last 4th edition being published in 1981. Ralph Mayer was actually a paint chemist, and his research was extensive. Unfortunately, the later revised edition of this book, published after his death, has some important information removed from the text. The later version of his book, however, is still worth consulting, and has some updated information.

The only outdated suggestion given in the book, relates to using varnish in painting mediums.

It is now recommended, to never add any sort of varnish or resin, to a painting medium.

"The Painter's Handbook: Revised and Expanded", the 2011 edition by Mark Gottsegen.

The earlier 1987 hardback edition is very good, and has more information and better diagrams, etc.

"Glazing" by Michael Wilcox. A very very good recent book on oil painting techniques and materials.

"Art Hardware" by Steven Saitzyk (also at www.trueart.info)

<https://justpaint.org/oiling-out-of-dead-colors-in-oil-paintings-3/>

Also:

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

Ralph Mayer - The Painter's Craft

Michael Wilcox - The Artist's Guide to Selecting Colours

- The Wilcox Guide to the Finest Watercolour Paints

(Contains information relevant to purchasing oils, acrylics, gouache, as well as watercolours)

Emma Pearce - Artist's Materials: Which, Why and How

Jonathan Stephenson - The Materials and Techniques of Painting.

Clifford Chieffo - The Contemporary Oil Painter's Handbook

Reed Kay - The Painter's Guide to Studio Methods and Materials.

Colin Hayes - The Complete Guide to Painting and Drawing Techniques and Materials

Nathan Goldstein - Painting, Visual and Technical Fundamentals

Gloria Foss - How to Paint, A Course in the Art of Oil Painting

Carol Vincent - Teach Yourself Painting and Drawing

Various Authors - Techniques of the Great Masters of Art, Techniques of the World's Great Painters

M.H. Pirenne - Optics Painting and Photography

Rob Howard - Gouache for Illustration

Richard Seddon - The Artist's Studio Book

Rutherford J Gettens and George L Stout - Painting Materials A Short Encyclopaedia

Antonella Fuga - Artists' Techniques and Materials

Lorena Kloosterboer - Complete Guide to Acrylics

Nancy Reyner - Acrylic Revolution

Jos A Smith - The Pen and Ink Book

Vance Studley - Make Your Own Artist's Tools and Materials

Kurt Wehlte - The Materials and Techniques of Painting

COMPOSITION

David Lauer and Stephen Pentak - Design Basics
Donald Graham - Composing Pictures

COLOUR

Michael Wilcox - Blue and Yellow Don't Make Green (A comprehensive book about colour mixing)
Margaret Livingstone - Vision and Art: The Biology of Seeing
<https://www.handprint.com/HP/WCL/wcolor.html>
<https://www.handprint.com/LS/CSV/color.html>

DRAWING AND PAPER

Nathan Goldstein - The Art of Responsive Drawing
Betty Edwards - Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain
Robert Zappalorti - Drawing Sharp Focus Still Lives
Silvie Turner - Which Paper ?
 - The Book of Fine Paper
 - Handmade Paper Today
James Watrous - The Craft of Old-Master Drawings

PORTRAITURE, FIGURE DRAWING, AND ANATOMY

Burne Hogarth - Drawing the Human Head
Jack Hamm - Drawing the Head and Figure
Louise Gordon - Drawing the Human Head, Anatomy and Figure Drawing, The Figure in Action
Douglas Graves - Drawing Portraits, Drawing a Likeness, Figure Painting in Oil
Gary Faigin - The Artist's Complete Guide to Facial Expression (Contains very useful information on drawing the facial features)
Nathan Goldstein - Figure Drawing
Eliot Goldfinger - Human Anatomy for Artists
Johannes Sobotta - Sobotta Atlas of Human Anatomy

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Monona Rossol - The Artist's Complete Health and Safety Guide
Monona Rossol and Ben Bartlett - Danger ! Artists at Work
Michael McCann - Artist Beware

PICTURE FRAMING

The above titles listed under Materials and Techniques contain information about correctly framing artworks. These books here also have useful information on picture framing.
Note: most commercial picture framers do not actually frame artworks correctly.
Paul Frederick-The Framer's Answer Book
Anne Clapp - Curatorial Care of Works of Art on Paper
Allan Byrne - Conserving Paintings
Merrily Smith and the Library of Congress - Matting and Hinging Works of Art on Paper.

WEB SITES

Any technical advice that may perhaps be outdated in these older texts, is updated at:

<https://justpaint.org/> (and specifically for oil painting: <https://justpaint.org/category/oils/>)
<https://mitra.artcons.artsci.udel.edu/resources/> (You need to click on the actual word "Resources" in the menu bar) and <https://mitra.artcons.artsci.udel.edu/> (Forum, Questions and Answers)
<https://www.naturalpigments.com/artist-materials> and <https://paintingbestpractices.com/>
<https://www.artiscreation.com/> and <https://www.wetcanvas.com/> and <https://handprint.com/HP/WCL/water.html>. Handprint is about watercolour, but actually has lot of very good information, for all artists.
<https://www.howtopastel.com/2022/08/lightfastness-in-pastels-d8330-a-new-standard/>