TUSC & PINE® *The* Artists' Oil Color

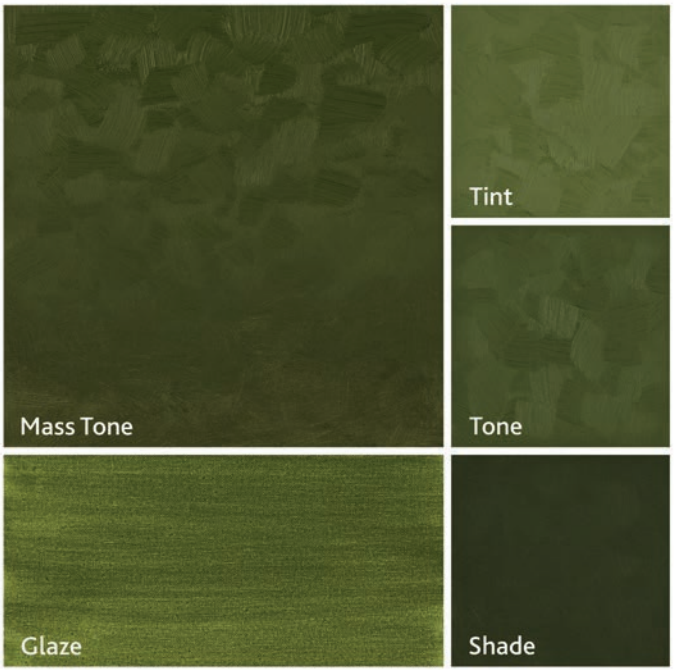
Introducing Wellington Vert Noir

There is a unique color in Tusc and Pine's oil paint line known as Wellington Vert Noir. It is a dark, earthy green that came from the imagination of artist John Wellington. No stranger to the challenge of mixing paints, John Wellington has taught traditional painting techniques at The New York Academy of Art and privately in his atelier for two decades. He also lectures and teaches painting workshops across the county and runs an en plein air workshop in Paris every summer.

A skilled artist, his paintings have been in numerous exhibitions and art fairs in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and Paris. He has shown at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris and The Arnot Museum in New York. John has painted alongside the Prince of Wales and is in his private collection, as well as other prominent collections in the US, Asia, and Europe.

Watch the VIDEO: John Wellington for Tusc & Pine Artists' Oil Paint

Wellington Vert Noir Swatch and Tube



Wellington Vert Noir Swatch Chart

The Idea Behind the Color

"Tusc and Pine is a brainchild of a very talented person named Heather Goldstein, and she wanted to make the best oil paints available, no caveat, period," Wellington said. When he was approached with the idea of creating his own color for the oil paint line, he knew right where he wanted to start: "…the very first color I was interested in was a green, and the reason for it had to do with something my art teachers used to tell me, which is don't use black."

Anyone who has taken an art class before might have been taught the dogma that artists should not use black pigments in their paintings, and most importantly, they should never mix colors with black. "I figured out why they told us this, but they never gave the reason," Wellington explained, "… they didn't want us to rely on black to darken a color. It's a silly statement, and I don't know if any of us ever questioned our professors."

Black is a potent color. Any hue mixed with a black pigment is going to become darker and desaturated. While it may be a go-to for many artists starting out, it is often taught early on that mixing with black pigments is bad practice. Instead, they are taught to mix their own black hues with other pigments to create more specific colors for their needs. Many artists end up avoiding black pigments entirely.

The Perfect Green for Earthy, Moody Landscapes

Wellington believes that the common dogma on mixing with black needs a revitalization. While artists should not rely solely on black to darken colors, black has its own abilities and attributes that can produce unique hues. One of Wellington's favorite black color mixtures is a black-green. Created with a combination of a neutral black pigment and a bright, vibrant yellow, Wellington Vert Noir is the perfect green for earthy, moody landscapes reminiscent of the Old Masters. The name, Vert Noir, stems from French, meaning "green-black".

This combo stands out from more common mixtures of blue and yellow because it is able to produce a subtle, warm-toned, moody green. This makes it the perfect color for shading on subjects that lean towards a yellow hue, such as foliage or fruits, like lemons. It is a color of green that is able to keep its warmth while not compromising on depth. John Wellington worked closely with Tusc and Pine's paint-makers to find the perfect ratio of black and yellow, creating an unmatched convenience color that artists will find themselves reaching for time and time again.

Paintings by John Wellington using Wellington Vert Noir and Wellington Vert Noir Deep

Wellington chose to go beyond what he was taught to bring us this unique hue of green: "This is the first introduction of my black-green and what, again, inspired me … was teachers telling me not to use black and knowing that they were wrong and knowing that black in fact shouldn't be thought as a darkening tool but as a color in itself to be mixed".

You can find Wellington Vert Noir, as well as its companion, Wellington Vert Noir Deep, and an array of other stunning professional oil paints in Tusc and Pine's 100+ color line.

Wellington Vert Noir >

Wellington Vert Noir Deep >