GENERAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES IN UNDERGRADUATE PAINTING

- The “Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act” requires warning labels on products containing known chronically hazardous substances, such as toxic metals, on all art materials sold in the US.
- Exposure routes of concern for chemicals you may use include inhalation (via nose), ingestion (via mouth), and skin absorption (via skin).
- EHS recommends that you use the solvent, Gamsol®, for cleaning your brushes because it is safer and healthier than other commonly used solvents and it is not considered hazardous waste.
- EHS recommends that you use paints that do not contain barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, or silver compounds because these metals are considered toxic and wastes containing these metals may be considered hazardous waste.
- EHS recommends that you refrain from eating and/or drinking in the studios, spray booth rooms, and shops at the School of Art.
- EHS recommends that you refrain from storing chemicals in food or beverage containers.
- Keep lids on all waste and non-waste chemical containers when they are not in use in order to minimize exposures and to prevent spills.
- Label each container of solvent that you use to clean your paint brushes with the fluorescent green labels provided by EHS (the labels can be found on top of the flammable cabinet).
- Extension cords should not be used as permanent wiring. Power strips and other electrical items should be plugged directly into electrical outlets in the walls.
- Maintain a clear path from your work area to an emergency exit door that is at least 28 inches wide in case of an emergency.
- Note the locations of fire extinguishers in the hallways.
- Smoking is not allowed in Yale buildings.
- Dial 911 from a Yale telephone or any other telephone in case of an emergency.

CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT & DISPOSAL IN UNDERGRADUATE PAINTING

Chemical Waste Streams Generated:

1. Solvents/Paints -> 5 gallon plastic containers
2. Solvent/Paints contaminated “rags” -> Red step cans

Chemical Waste Management Requirements (EPA, CTDEP & Yale):

1. Containers must be labeled as “Hazardous Waste” and with their specific chemical contents Note: Use the Hazardous Waste labels provided by EHS.
2. Containers must be kept closed at all times except when waste is added (i.e. the lid screwed onto the 5 gallon container; the lid flush against the rim of the red step can).
3. Containers must be stored in the designated Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA), which is set up at the sink inside the studio room.
4. Liquid chemical waste containers should be stored in the large blue tray.