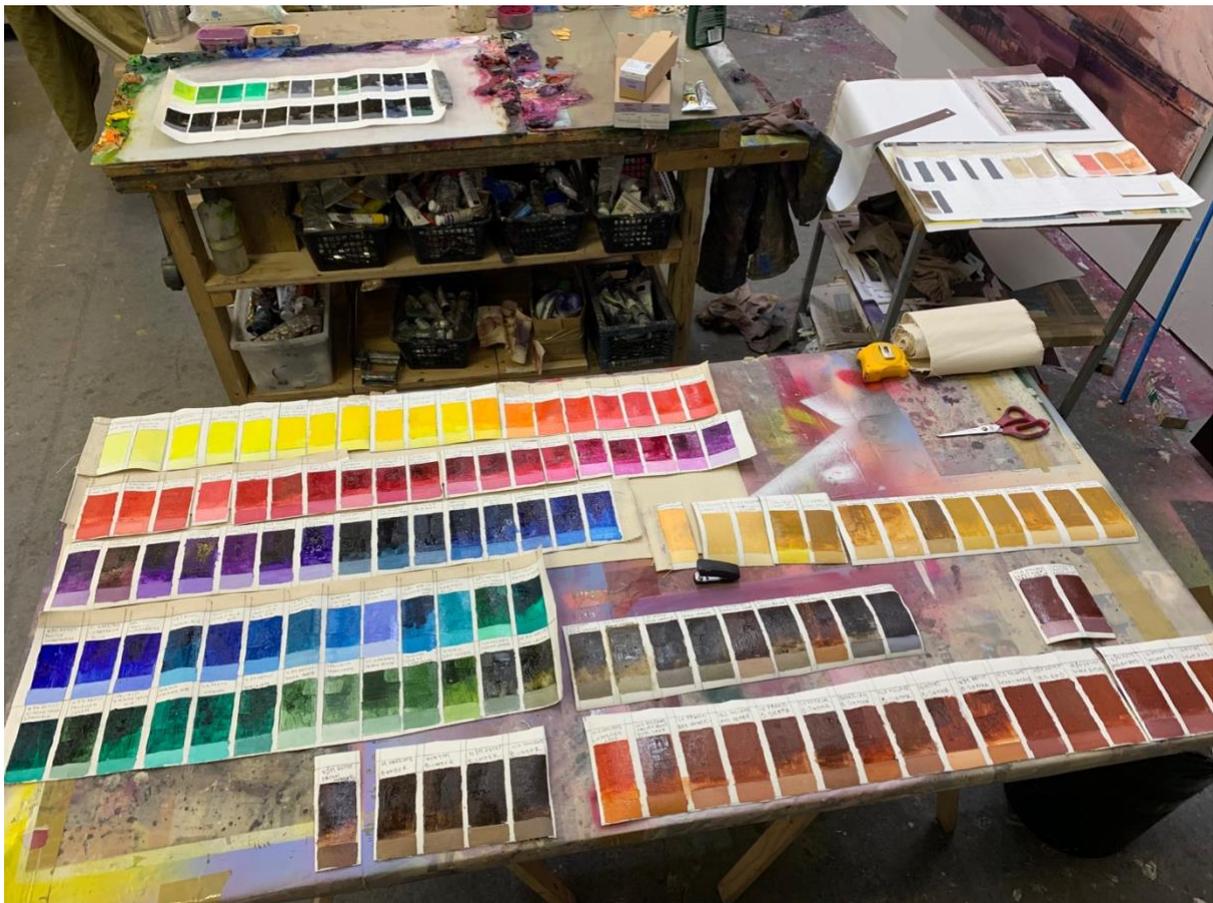


Exploring My Personal Palette by Mircea Teleaga

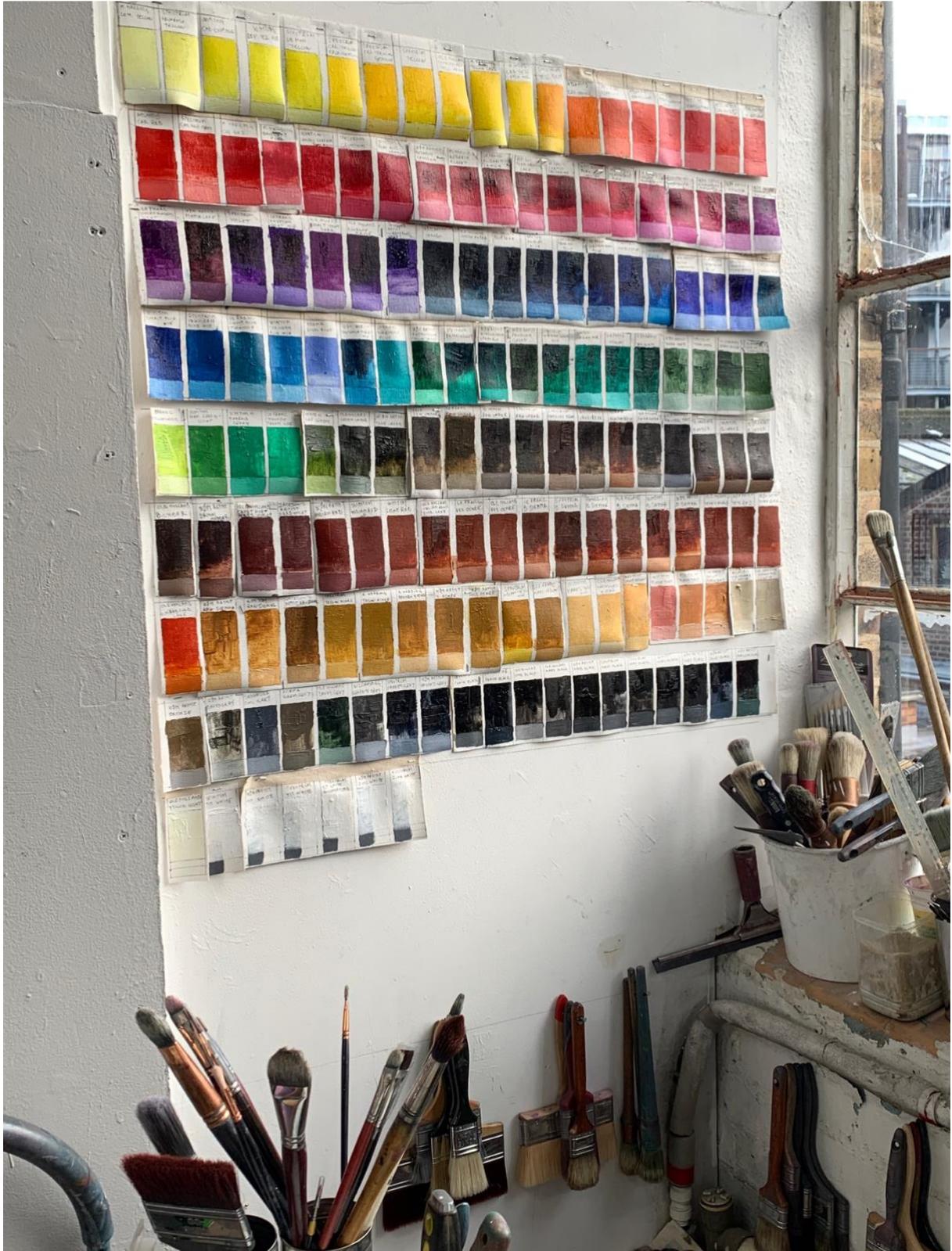
I needed to see what paints I had. I realised I was buying the exact same colour from all the brands I could find in order to see the subtle ways in which they differed from case to case. It was easy when I had only a few tubes of paint but the more I tried out, the more difficult it got to manage them and the more difficult it was to be able to consider them all at once. So I just did the obvious thing: I used some canvas off cuts I had lying around, and was probably going to bin in the end anyway, to test out all the paints I had. I arranged them in a roughly colour wheel order as to see how they change slightly in tone and temperature. In order to make the most out of this exercise, I tried to have a varied application of paint on each strip. Therefore I have areas of impasto, scraped paint, glazing and probably the most important one, an area where I mixed the colour with the white I use the most, Titanium White. In the case of all the whites I have, I have also applied the paint on a grey coloured ground (besides white canvas as well) as to test the covering power of each paint.



There are 159 swatches of colour so far and this is a huge number for a colour palette. The aim of this exercise was to reduce the number of colours I use and create a minimum palette for myself. I see these 159 swatches as some kind of paint dictionary out of which I can pick the essentials from, and also what I need to use on occasion and therefore need to have around. Another thing I was aiming for is to save time when in doubt about what colours to use. For a while I was fascinated by Burnt Siennas, Red Ochres and Venetian Reds and have collected quite a few. It became quite confusing to manage 18 quite similar colours and note their differences especially since all of them react very differently when mixed with white.



Therefore this exercise came as a necessity and is a visual shortcut for the paints I have and helps with my bad habit of buying and trying every new paint/pigment I find.



P.S. It has a very eye catchy presence in my studio so I have a piece of white canvas to cover it with when I do not need it. I can just peek behind the curtain when I need its help.