

General Syllabus
for a 6 week course 4-6 wk
Beginning Watercolor for the Art Enthusiast

The following are just a sampling of what I plan to teach in this course:

Watercolor materials:

- Papers – Student grade vs. professional grade, the various surfaces such as Hot Press, Cold Press Rough, and the different weights and what is best suited for your needs.
- Paints – Student grade vs. professional grade, tubes vs. pans, opaque vs. transparent.
- Brushes – synthetic vs. natural, the different types, what their purpose is, the various marks they make.

Techniques you will learn:

- How to paint a “wash” and a “graded wash”
- Painting “wet in wet”
- Painting “wet on dry”
- Drybrush techniques
- Pen and ink with watercolor
- Spattering
- Lifting
- Scraping
- Salt
- Masking fluid to save whites
- Reclaiming the white of the paper
- The Four Pillars of Watercolor: Color, Shape, Tone and Edge.
- Color theory, using the color wheel, complimentary colors, mixing colors, building your palette.
- Perspective: Aerial perspective and Atmospheric perspective.
- Composing a painting: The “Rule of Thirds”, defining your focal point, painting light to dark., mixing a wash - “tea to butter” paint consistency.
- The importance of doing value studies – thinking in terms of shapes, light and dark masses.
- Keeping a sketchbook! The importance of daily sketching/painting small studies, doing sky studies.
- Various genres of painting we may try: still life, abstract/impressionistic, landscapes, florals.
- Each week I will highlight a master watercolor artist, we will take a look at their art, what makes it so exceptional, what new techniques they may have used in their art,,,I can't emphasize enough the importance of looking at and studying other works of art.

At some point you will be asked to bring in a photo to use as a reference in creating a painting. This is where individual creativity flourishes...no longer will we all be painting the same scene or objects. No longer will there be the tendency to compare your painting to that of your peers...creativity is very individualized...that is what making ART is all about!

I look forward to sharing the Wonderful World of Watercolor with each of you!

Happy Painting!