

High on the Downs

September 21st - 24th 2026

Tutor -Simon Carter

Course Cost - £450

A four day practical course led by Simon Carter. Starting with a day's drawing at the Truleigh Centre situated on the Downs, the course will look at how we can record things in the landscape, whether expressively in charcoal or by working across multiple sheets, constructing a panorama or by focusing on the minutiae of the landscape. In the studio we will look at ways to unpack your drawings, understanding what is in them and find ways to maintain the freshness of the initial drawings as we develop studio work.

Day one:

A day drawing at the Truleigh Centre on the South Downs. We will find ways of working on site that are clear and intentional, and also both free and expressive. Experimenting with different materials and approaches to recording the landscape. You will meet Simon at the centre. Directions will be sent to you with the course information.

Day two:

In the studio in Partridge Green we will look at how we can use yesterday's drawings. We will begin to unpack and understand what we made in the landscape by making a series of charcoal drawings, looking for ways to maintain the freshness of observation but also encourage risk and surprise in the work.

Day three:

We will start to move the drawings into paint, exploring cutting, collaging, redrawing and the addition of colour. We will work towards making tough compositions, considering both depiction and the abstract qualities of composition.

Day four:

A day of painting, still guided by our drawings, we will seek to approach painting with freedom and attack. We will consider the relation between drawing in the landscape and painting in the studio and find strategies to keep the paint surface energetic and alive.