

## Expressive Painting in the Algarve Landscape

Exploring colour and mark making as a personal visual language.

Dates: September 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 (Arrive on Sunday, taught course Monday - Friday)

Tutor Emily Ball

Cost £1995 (This includes accommodation, tuition, all food and materials)

*(If you book for both course you get a 10% discount)*

Inspiration for your painting this week will come from your experiences of being in the beautiful coastal Nature Reserve at the Western end of the Algarve. A short walk from the fishing village of Salema, and the rugged untouched coves nearby, you will be staying at the villa of artist Ros Hodges where you will be treated to the most delicious food and relaxing surroundings, including a pool. During the 5 days you will be immersed in this spectacular, expansive landscape making paintings. Walking on the paths brushing past wild fennel, navigating between sun bleached plants, across hills down to the beach and sea you will make paintings that capture the place and fleeting experiences. Colour will be an important theme to explore; to give an equivalent to the glowing red earth, rugged vistas to the sea, the wiry, bleached vegetation and beautiful light. Even the invisible and intangible sensations of heat, breeze, birdsong, space and your mood can be translated into colour and marks.

Making the most of the early morning coolness, you will start each day with a walk. Going out before breakfast with a snack and drink in your little rucksack to make studies of the landscape as the sun comes up. This gives you more time to feel connected to the place and witness the changes and colours that come alive moment by moment. Using these studies and the experience you will return to the villa to work in your own space, sheltered around the house, where paintings can be developed. Emily will provide practical demonstrations and exercises to enable you to unpack how to go about this. There will be primed canvas, beautiful papers and sketchbooks available to work on. Generous quantities of oil paint or acrylics, inks, mediums and mixed media are provided.

You may take it as a stand alone course or you might want to combine it with the course running the previous week; An Artists Retreat - Walking, Drawing, Writing with Katie Sollohub. Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. A magical combination, as one will feed so beautifully into the other. *(There is a 10% discount if you book for both courses).*

Please be aware that to get to the sea and the more remote areas of landscape you will need to have the capacity to be able to walk and carry a day pack 2km and an ability to walk on narrow, uneven, hilly coastal earth paths. If this is not possible then the gardens and landscape that surrounds the house are also beautiful and full of inspiration.

At the end of this course

- you will come away with a valuable collection of painted studies and experiments. Some will be about exploring what can be done with paint; pushing it to its limits, layered, polished, impasto, sumptuous and delicate on different surfaces. Others will be directly made in situ in response to the landscape that surrounds you.
- you will have a collection of paintings both resolved and begun that are expressive and personal about your experience of being in the landscape.

- you will have done some writing that will be useful as resource and ideas for future work after the course.
- You will feel refreshed by being away, in the landscape with no other commitments to get in the way of the flow of thought
- you will have enjoyed the space and time to recharge, and may have no expectations of outcomes

**Emily's ambitions for the course content to inspire students:**

“I have visited this beautiful place many times and have had the opportunity to study and paint there too. For this course I want to focus on helping artists to use colour as a powerful tool and language. I will unpack and explore the following points during the 5 days”.

- How marks and colours become like the landscape without copying the view.
- When does colour have a luminosity and form all of its own in a painting?
- How can marks, layered and gestured, speak of the growth, light, feeling physicality of the place?
- To have a dialogue with the work and be open to where it can take you.
- To be present and notice more things.
- To truly play and invent. To be curious and inquisitive about the materials and the endless possibilities of combinations of marks and motifs.
- To suspend judgment.

**Details about the structure of the course**

Students arrive on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> between 3-7pm. The course starts on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and ends on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>, Students leave on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> @or before 10am.

**Sunday 8th Sep 2024 Arrival Day**

Arrive ideally before 6pm so that we can have a welcome supper and introductions together. Flights and taxi transfer can be co-ordinated so that you can share the costs (travel not included). Settle in and get familiar with your surroundings. Introductions and orientation walk and supper.

**Day 1**

To give you a gentle start, so that you can recover from your journey the day before, breakfast will be from 7.00 - 8.00am. At 8.30am we will go on an early morning walk armed with a very small light weight bag of materials, a note book and pen. Before the day gets too hot this is an opportunity to make a few studies and write to get a feel for the lie of the land, the sea and vegetation close to the villa. Emily will gather everyone at the villa and demonstrate ways of working with colour and marks using the range of materials that there will be available to you during the week. Preparing colour surfaces and collage papers will be helpful to get up and running quickly with the paint so that we can capture the experience.

In the middle of the day, when it is at its hottest, we have lunch at 12.30 and a siesta until 3pm. Then we use the afternoon and into the early part of the evening to make more work and walk out into the landscape when it is cooler again.

Supper is at 7pm. An evening walk or continuing to paint is optional.

## **Days 2 – 4**

An early start is recommended. Taking a picnic breakfast and leaving the villa just as it is getting light. It is a magical time of day. Not only do we beat the heat but get to see colour filling the landscape as it becomes bathed in sunlight and wakes up.

Then at around 10.30am we return for coffee and a swim. We then look at our studies and begin working from them until lunchtime.

12.30 – 3pm is Siesta time and then we work until supper. Some of you may choose to work at the villa, others may want to go back out into the landscape.

7pm supper and review.

## **Day 5**

I expect by this point in the week that everyone will be working at the villa resolving paintings and developing ideas from all the studies they have made over the 5 days.

We will end the day with an exhibition of all the work made and a review of the week.

## **Day 6 - Departure Day**

Early flights are recommended so you can expect to leave first thing, via a prearranged taxi. Flights and times can be coordinated where possible to enable shared costs (transfer not included)

***\*Please note that accommodation is based on sharing. There is limited space for single occupancy in the villa, but can be arranged at a nearby B&B for those willing to pay a premium, on a first come first served basis. For all others you will be sharing with 1, 2 or 3 others, in comfortable, spacious rooms.***

**PREMIUM COST for single occupancy £200**

***If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know. We offer Vegetarian, vegetarian with fish, dairy intolerant and gluten intolerant food as part of this course. All produce is locally sourced and prepared freshly each day. If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know.***