

The Patterns and Rhythm's of Abstraction

A Painting Course tutored by Julian Brown

Dates; March 6th - 8th 2023

Cost: £300

Wherever we look or listen there are patterns and rhythms around us, from nature, textiles, architecture or music it's part of our understanding of the world. Abstract artists have continued to use rhythms and repetition to inspire their practice, creating systems and structures as the pulse from which their work thrives.

This three day course will explore these rhythms in painting and will develop through layering, mark making, process and expression.

Core to the course will be the importance of creating a system to underpin your work. We will then explore this by looking at the history of abstraction along with contemporary artists and their techniques, showing the dynamic new ways they are making paintings, through surfaces and processes. The course includes studio based activities and individual tutorials. You will be encouraged to use the whole space, starting with some large scale works on paper and then exploring in a number of different scales and materials. This course is suitable for anyone with an interest in abstract painting but also to any level artist who would like to develop their work in new directions and techniques.

Course notes

Day one (Introduction, large drawings and systems)

The course will start with a talk about abstraction, discussing the importance of it's systems and rhythms while outlining what we can expect to develop during the course. From this we will start with some small scale warm up mark making exercises working on elements from your own research, responding to repetition.

We will then quickly be working on some large scale black and white drawings, looking for rhythms and working loosely from grid systems. As these works develop we will be thinking about further large scale drawings or breaking down and reconstructing images. The aim from these large scale black and white drawings is to start to develop a system, this acts as a core of the work to develop from. You can then start to experiment with different techniques, surfaces and processes.

Day two (processes and materials)

Day two will mainly focus on process

We will start the day with a talk about abstract painting techniques and contemporary uses of painting methods. We will look at experimentation, surface, materials and processes and see if we can implement this into your work. With a good core base of work from day one we will be looking at transforming these works into paintings and different surfaces, canvases and boards . These works could continue to be large of small scale but you will be encouraged to use different techniques and tools to break down the structures of the work.

Day three (expanding and concluding systems)

You should have a good body of images to work from to develop, we will looking at layering, deconstructing and luminosity to bring the work to a conclusion. The day will also include an extended individual tutorial about the work and progression. The course will conclude with a small show of work and group crit.

Course Materials

Large scale paper for the first day and some tools for the course will be provided but beyond this you will need to bring your usual art materials - sketch books, paints, brushes, canvases and boards.

Before the course - It's a really great idea to bring any research, references, sketch books and photographs of your work to the course. It really helps as an introduction to your work and acts as a great starting point for the course.

It would also be helpful if you could start to think about pattern and rhythms in your work, it could be just in note form or include drawings, photographs and studies. It doesn't have to be extensive but it will mainly help me understand how to develop these interests in your work.