

Experiments in Watercolour

Tutor: Simon Carter

Date: October 13th- 15th Tuesday - Thursday

Time: 10am to 4pm

Course fee: £105

Experiments in Watercolour is a three day practical course led by Simon Carter. The course aims to have a fresh look at the medium of watercolour and how it might be used in an expressive, experimental and contemporary way. The course will not be about technique, but will seek to use watercolour in a bold and painterly manner. Students will be working from drawings and will be required to make a series of drawings prior to the course starting.

Each day will start with live online demonstrations. Students will then have their own studio time to immerse themselves in the process of painting, being encouraged to be bold and experimental in their approach.

A gallery page on the website has been set up for students attending the course to post their work on line. We will be able to look at the results of each days work. This will be a way of celebrating our shared experience and gaining extra inspiration. It also gives Simon the opportunity to see the work and give one to one feedback, to help progress and confidence.

Day one:

We will begin by working from drawings, looking at finding watercolour equivalents for drawn marks and seeking simple, bold structures. We will aim to work with spontaneity and speed, producing a series of improvised variations.

Working in your own time and studio for the rest of the day. At 4.30pm photograph your work and email to gallery@emilyball.net

Day two:

Today we will look at how to use the yesterday's studio watercolours as source material for further painting. In a process of tearing, cutting and collaging we will look at strategies for keeping the painting energetic and alive. We will look at the decision making process and how to approach the watercolour with freedom and attack.

Painting in your own time and studio for the rest of the day. At 4.30pm photograph your work and email to gallery@emilyball.net

Day three:

Today we will enlarge the previous day's work, looking at how we can use watercolour at scale and with the ambition of work on canvas. We will take yesterday's collaged watercolour as our starting point and make a large, multi-sheet watercolour. We will look at ways of thinking about what you are making, and re-emphasise strategies for keeping the painting energetic and alive as it progresses.

Painting in your own time and studio for the rest of the day. At 4.30pm photograph your work and email to gallery@emilyball.net

Simon will look through the work you have produced and send you feedback and advice about the work and possible ways to go forward.

Course notes

Dates: October 13th- 15th (Tuesday - Thursday)

Tutor: Simon Carter

Cost: £105

This fee includes:

Live group tutorials on each morning from 10am – 12pm. From 1 – 4 pm students work on their own in their own studio spaces.

At the end of each day you will be encouraged to email just 2 photos of the work made that day. These will then be put into a gallery on the website for the whole group to see.

It is possible for you to record each live workshop onto your own device, so that you can watch it again to refresh your memory of the exercises and suggestions.

Each Zoom meeting will also be recorded by Simon. Email gallery@emilyball.net if you would like to be able to have access to this each day and we can provide you with a link so that you can watch the workshop again, if it is not possible for you to record the session. *(This link will only be available for one week after the course ends).*

A shared group Facebook page

At the end of the course Simon will look through the work you have produced and send you feedback and advice about the work and possible ways to go forward.

I will be using **Zoom** for our Video Communication. It is really easy to use. If you are not familiar with it (we are all learning) then what I will do is set up a 'Meeting' for each day of the course and you will be emailed a link to enable you to join the meeting at the specified time. I plan to be online early so you can check in before 10 am if you wish. To familiarise yourself with it perhaps download Zoom and practise using it with family and friends so that you feel comfortable and confident using it.

If you need to stock up with materials then Seawhite are still delivering orders.

<https://www.artesaver.co.uk/>

How students need to prepare

You will need to organise your work space.

Make sure that you have enough room to work, and some wall space to put up studies and paintings as you go through the course. Allow yourself enough space to be free with materials and have several pieces in progress at the same time. Consider how you would like to use your space in a way that feels inspiring and allows room for plenty of experimentation. Be organised. It will really help the flow of your work and keep your head clear too.

IMPORTANT: Source material to work from.

The course relies on previously made drawings as source material, so you will need to make a sequence of drawings before the course starts. This is essential to the course.

Drawing instructions

Find a subject you are excited by and make a series of drawings, this can be done over several days. Do not be overwhelmed by the subject. Draw with vigour and purpose, be bold. Look to simplify. Investigate shapes, surfaces, textures, atmospheres etc. Simon is going to work from pencil drawings made at a local boat yard.

Gather and prepare your materials.

Paper

You will need a supply of reasonable quality watercolour paper. Size and weight of paper is not critical. I use Bockingford Not surface, 190gsm (90lb) weight or Seawhite's own brand.

It will be handy to also have a supply of cartridge paper for drawing. Size and weight of paper is not critical. Whatever you can get your hands on.

Paint

It is wise to use good quality watercolour, usually labelled as artist paint, it is easier to handle and produces cleaner, brighter colour. It is not critical what colours you use, but it is easier to handle a limited range of colours. Although I have many colours on hand, the core colours that I am currently using are:

Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red or Vermillion, Alizarin Crimson, Permanent Rose, Cerulean Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Sepia, Venetian Red and Sap Green and Neutral Tint.

Brushes

Have a variety of brush shapes and sizes, the larger sizes will be the most useful.

Mixing

You will need small containers, dishes or palettes with reservoirs to mix the colour. Also good size pots for water, and a supply of kitchen paper.

Other materials

Have a selection of drawing materials such as charcoal, pencils, felt tip pens, pastels, oil pastels or white wax crayon, graphite sticks.

To aid in collaging the watercolours, you will need scissors, masking tape and glue.

Any queries regarding the things on this list please email me with questions.