

Experiments in Watercolour 2

Tutor: Simon Carter

Date:

Time: 10am to 4pm

Course fee:

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.

As we are more confined to our studios in the current situation, we will gather a group of natural objects to construct a surrogate 'landscape'. You will need to gather together a group of natural objects prior to the course starting (further instructions below).

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 online. There will also be a Facebook group for those on the course. This will be a way of sharing our experience and gaining extra inspiration. It also gives Simon the opportunity to see the work as it progresses before giving feedback at the end of the course.

Day one:

We will begin by painting directly from selected elements of our group of natural objects, looking at finding watercolour equivalents for our observations and seeking simple, bold expression. 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 a maximum of TWO images to gallery@emilyball.net

Day two:

Today we will look at how to use yesterday's watercolours as source material. In a process of tearing, cutting, collaging and overpainting we will construct a landscape from the elements painted yesterday. 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 a maximum of TWO images to gallery@emilyball.net

Day three:

Today we will enlarge yesterday'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, fluid 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 a maximum of TWO images 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:

Tutor: Simon Carter

Cost: This fee includes:

Live group tutorials 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 TWO photos of the work made that day. These will then be put into the course gallery on the website for the whole group to see.

Each Zoom session will also be recorded. You will be sent the link ahead of the course.

A shared group Facebook page. Again, you will be sent the link ahead of the course.

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 easy to use. I will 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 will be online from 9.30am giving time for students to meet and chat before we start a 10am start. To familiarise yourself with it, perhaps download Zoom and practise 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

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 you gathering together a group of natural objects prior to the course starting. From these objects we will construct a surrogate 'landscape' and this will be the source material for our work. This is essential to the course.

Instructions

The course work will be based on a group of natural objects which we will use to stand in for landscape elements, a broccoli head for big trees, crumpled paper for rocks or small boxes wrapped in plain paper for buildings. You will need to have gathered these objects before the course starts. You do not initially need to construct these into a 'landscape' but we will need them to work from. Feel free to bring into your studio whatever interests you but I would suggest some of the following:

- Stones or small rocks
- A head of broccoli or cauliflower
- A group of twigs or branches
- Sprigs of leaves or small flowers
- Pot plant
- Moss
- Crumpled brown paper
- Small mirror
- Small boxes wrapped in plain paper

Gather and prepare your materials

Paper

A supply of A2 (42 x 60cm) watercolour paper. Weight of paper is not critical. As we are going to be tearing and collaging it might be good to use cheaper paper. I usually use Bockingford Not surface 190gsm or Seawhite's own brand 225gsm.

For the whole process to work you will need to keep to the suggested paper sizes!

Paint

It is easier to use good quality watercolour, usually labelled as artist paint; it is easier to handle and produces cleaner, brighter colour. However, as we will be painting on a large scale student colours will be adequate to experiment with. Tubes provide the paint in more readily available quantity.

It is not critical what colours you use, but it is easier to handle a limited range of colours. Although I have many colours to 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, pastels, or crayons just in case...

For collaging the watercolours, you will need scissors, masking tape and glue.

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