

Landscape and Abstraction. Material and Process

January 28th - 30th 2026 (Wednesday - Friday)

Tutor - Nick Bodimeade

Cost - £300

What is Landscape? Perhaps it could be thought of as material and space subject to the processes of nature. Gravity, light, temperature, atmospheric, growth and decay. Many artists seek to exploit the parallels that exist between the processes of landscape and those of painting. The pushing and pulling, the dribbling, soaking and eroding, the generative and destructive and with the artist's body as a force of nature operating dynamically within the 'field' of painting.

On this three day practical painting course we will be exploring landscape paintings relationship to process based abstraction, working sensitively and inventively with the physical properties of our materials. Colour, composition, layering and visual atmosphere will all play their part. The aim being to create visual equivalents for landscape rather than straight forward representations. You will be given demonstrations and instructions to get you started alongside one to one and group tuition.

There will be 2 slide shows a day looking at historical and contemporary artists including Monet, Pollock, Per Kirkeby, Joan Mitchell, Helen Frankenthaler, Gillian Ayres and Phoebe Unwin.

We will be working with acrylic paint on paper to enable a lot of ground to be covered without concern for drying times and transport. Paper is available in the studio and the onsite Seawhite shop is well stocked with painting materials.

Students will be working from their own photographs as well as any drawings/sketchbooks they have.

In preparation for this course, please ensure you have plenty of landscape images. Perhaps go for a couple of walks/journeys and shoot lots of images of whatever catches your eye, remembering 'good' photographs don't necessarily make good paintings, the odd/accidental/blurred often do. Try not to pre judge. It would be ideal if you could bring a laptop or tablet to view your images on, if not then prints will be fine.

Please bring a range of acrylic paint with you. Recommended colours might include - white, paynes grey, sap green, violet, ultramarine blue, raw umber, bright red, chrome yellow and orange, and any other favourites you might have.

Please bring with you an assortment of brushes, remembering large brushes can do most of what a small one can do but not the other way round. Large brushes also encourage boldness and change and the elemental.

We have some palettes in the studio but it is better to bring your own, along with a large water tub and plastic cartons for mixing.

Paper is available to buy in the studio and brushes and paint in the onsite Seawhite shop.

Painting 'Copyhold Farm' Nick Bodimeade