

Summer School of Painting and Drawing 2027

On top of Truleigh Hill

Tutors Emily Ball and Katie Sollohub

July 26th - 30th 2027

£620 (includes all materials for the 2 days making studies in the landscape)

Our summer school week is five days dedicated to drawing and painting, inspired by the most beautiful location on the top of Truleigh Hill in West Sussex. Taught by two artists who love their profession and have over 60 years of teaching and painting experience between them. The first two days of the course are spent on location making drawings and colour studies that are searching and playful, rather than plans for paintings. The final three days are spent in the Seawhite studio developing paintings inspired by the drawings and memories of being on the hill. Your tutors will guide, support and encourage you to experiment, play and find your personal language to express what you loved about being in the place.

Give yourself time to sit in the landscape and marvel at it. Notice the sounds, colours, the plants, the light and weather. From on top of the hill you have spectacular, expansive views across hills and valleys, out to the sparkling, shimmering sea. On a clear day you can see the Isle of Wight and the rows of Wind Turbines distant in the sea beyond Shoreham. You can hear and see Sky Larks above your head and will walk amongst wild flowers and grasses. We have worked on the hill many times and on one occasion we had the magical experience of seeing mist filling the bowl of the valley below us; billowing, rolling obscuring the view and then the landscape being slowly revealed as the sun burnt away the mist. Every day is different, every season brings new wonder. Watching and being in it gives you an experience that feeds into the paintings that we will make back in the studio.

“Gorgeous location, next time would stay at the Youth Hostel too! The barn was spacious and modern, it felt like the perfect base, and I would imagine would be great whatever the weather. “

Staying in the Youth Hostel a few minutes walk away from the Truleigh Centre could be a wonderful extension and addition to your experience. You could carry on drawing and catch the sunset or sunrise so you don't miss a moment of inspiration.

“What a place...excellent location, easy parking, good indoor facilities. Made one feel great just the drive up!”

The course is structured so that everyone feels supported and focused each step of the way; from making drawings in the landscape to unpacking the content and potential of them in the studio and exploring how to create many paintings from them. Everyone will go away with lots of studies and a series of paintings that all relate to each other. Whether or not work is finished is not really the over all aim. Instead these 5 days gives you an insight into how to begin to create a body of work and sustain the journey of exploration in the paintings; maintaining inventiveness, expressiveness and courage to work with the flow and changes that occur as the subject opens out.

Day 1 At the Truleigh Hill Centre Monday June 28th

9.30am Meet at the Truleigh Hill Centre barn. <https://truleighcentre.co.uk/> There is lots of parking. The coffee will be on and tea made ready for your arrival. We suggest that you bring a pack lunch each day and a bottle of water. There is a fridge so you can put your food in there to keep cool.

Emily and Katie will provide your materials for the two days on the hill. So you can come hands free. They will both demonstrate different processes to make studies to ease you into the subject. Throughout the day they will be guiding and talking to each person individually as well.

The day ends at 4.30pm

If you have chosen to stay at the Youth Hostel then you have more time to carry on drawing until the sun sets.....should be magical!! It is only a couple of minutes walk from the Truleigh Hill Centre.

<https://yha-truleigh-hill-hostel-shoreham-by-sea.westsussexhotel.com/en/>

Day 2 At the Truleigh Hill Centre – Tuesday 29th

9.30am As for day 1. Emily and Katie will demonstrate further processes to inspire you to make fresh studies. We will also be writing to capture your immediate responses and observations.

4pm We will gather as a group to review progress. 4.30pm the day ends.

Day 3 At the Seawhite Studio – Wednesday June 30th

9am arrive at the studio so that you can set up your space and put up all of your studies from the hill. The teaching session will begin at 9.30am.

Emily and Katie will show how to begin unpacking the content of the studies. Explorations into paint – Marks, surface and memory.

4pm Review of the days work

4.30pm Day ends

Day 4 At the Seawhite Studio – Thursday July 1st

Day begins at 9.30am

Continuing to develop paintings and work in series.

4pm Review of days work and 4.30pm Day Ends

Day 5 at the Seawhite Studio – Friday July 2nd

Day begins at 9.30am (Studio opens at 8am so you can start early if you like)

Continue to develop and resolve paintings

Stop painting at 2.45pm, clear studio and put up paintings.

3.30 – 4.30pm Group review and goodbyes.

If you need to stock up with materials then order through the Seawhite website and collect on the first day at the studio.

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

When you get to the check out enter the code EB10 to get 10% discount.

Gather and prepare your materials.

In the Studio

Katie will be working in acrylics and Emily will be working in oils so that they can demonstrate the differences.

Paints and other materials

These are the colours we suggest you use, in either acrylics or oils. This selection enables you to mix any colour you desire. However, if you have other favourite colours bring those too:

Titanium White, Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Indian Yellow, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson, Magenta, Cerulean Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue.

Mediums and equipment for oils and acrylics

Acrylics

Acrylics can be diluted with acrylic mediums, they will increase the flow and transparency of the paint. Some offer the option of increasing the gloss as well. Having mediums is important. Rather than only diluting the paint with water mediums help the colours to stay fresh rather than drying dull. We also recommend that you have Retarder medium. This slows down the drying time of the paint, allowing you to blend and move the paint on the surface for longer.

Oils - White spirit and Turpentine are not allowed in the studio. They are toxic and give off smelly fumes. Instead we recommend Shellsol T which you can buy from Jacksons Art supplies or A P Fitzpatrick (this is an odourless solvent which is an alternative to white spirit to clean your brushes with, and thin the oil paint). We recommend that you use a 'Drying medium' (to speed up the drying time). You can mix your own 50/50 mix of Linseed stand oil and Shellsol T. It is odourless and very effective.

Brushes and tools for Oils and Acrylics

Have a variety of brush shapes and sizes: Flats, Filberts, Rounds, Liners/Riggers. For bigger brushes you could go to a hardware or decorating shop. Good makes are Princeton and Omega for large brushes. A few palette knives, paint scrapers or spatulas are useful too, of differing shapes and sizes. Sponges and lots of cotton rags are essential.

Mixing

The studio has large perspex palettes you can use and also lots of plastic tubs and pots to mix paint in. Do bring kitchen roll (part of the stay wet palette for acrylics) and perhaps some clingfilm (to cover paint at the end of the day to stop it drying out).

Other materials/ Mixed media

Coloured chalks and oil pastels are great to add to acrylics.

Oil Pigment Sticks are fabulous to draw into your oil paintings with.

Surfaces to paint on:

For Oils: You can work straight onto unsealed paper in oils. It stains and dries very quickly. The only thing you must be aware of is that with thick areas of paint, in time, there will be an oily halo appear around the paint, as the oil leaches into the surrounding bare paper. Arches Oil Paper is prepared and sealed ready for painting on and is a beautiful surface. There will be both Cartridge and Arches paper that can be purchased by the sheet at the studio.

If you prefer to paint on Canvas or Board

Size and shape is up to you but we will be working on 3 – 4 pintings and they need to all be the same shape and size. You might feel you want to decide this after you have completed some studies. There is the Seawhite Art shop within a couple of minutes walk for the studio where they sell canvas and boards. The studio also has rolls of primed canvas on a roll. So you could choose to measure out what you need and work on the wall and pay by the metre.

Refreshments

Bring a pack lunch each day. There is a fridge and a microwave at the studio. If you don't have time to make lunch then there is an excellent bakery/sandwich shop in Partridge Green and also a Co-op store. Tea, coffee and biscuits are supplied at the studio.

Any queries regarding the things on this list please email emily@emilyball.net with questions.