

Up on the Chalk Downs – drawing and painting

April 28th – May 2nd 2025 (Monday - Friday)

Tutor Emily Ball

Cost - £500

This 5 day course will begin by taking you on a journey through the process of making drawings and studies whilst moving through the landscape of the South Downs. You will travel light with a range of materials, that will be provided for you, that enable you to make playful mixed media explorations. They are not plans for paintings but a compilation of things seen, felt, heard. Two days in the landscape will be followed by three days in the studio using this material to start to develop a series of paintings. Back in the studio Emily will demonstrate the many possibilities that paint can offer. She will help with the process of unpacking the potential from the studies and get everyone working on 3 – 4 paintings. You will navigate the path that the paintings may want to take and keep a playful sense of engagement.

It is very important that anyone attending the course is physically strong and fit enough to be able to walk up a hill and be out in the landscape for a large part of days 1 & 2.

Day 1 - We will meet at the Seawhite studio at 9.15am and get ready to go out on the hill. We will work outside for most of the day, weather permitting. Our time will be spent making experimtnal drawings which will be inspiration and reference for paintings later in the week.

Day 2 – Meet at the studio at 9.15am. We will review the previous days studies and get ready for another day of working outside. Then off up the hill again for the rest of the day.

Days 3 – 5 Working in the studio each day developing paintings from our expeirence, memory and studies.

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.

Outside on Days 1 & 2 .Emily will provide all your materials for working in the landscape, plus a rucksack stool.

In the studio for days 3 – 5

I suggest that if you paint on paper using acrylics. You will need a heavy-weight cartridge or other paper, Seawhite now stock 300gm weight as well as Fabriano Artistico HP.

If you wish to work with oils: You can use oils and the paper does not necessarily need to be sized or primed. Heavier and better quality paper is preferable. Arches Oil paper is available to buy at the studio by the sheet. This paper is what Emily uses frequently. It is already sized and ready to paint on with oils.

If you prefer to paint on Canvas or Board

Size and shape is up to you. Perhaps decide this after you have completed some studies. The Seawhite shop has boards and pre-made canvases for sale.

Canvas

The studio has primed canvas available to buy by the metre. Stretched canvas on a frame, or loose primed canvas off a roll (this could be wrapped around a board to give a firm surface to work on or stapled to the wall).

Board

Prepared artists boards are fine.

Pieces of MDF from your shed or garage. Priming might be a good idea but some artists rather like the unprimed surface too.

Smooth cardboard or mount board and even corrugated cardboard are options too.

Paints and other materials

These are the colours I suggest you use, in either acrylics or oils. This selection enables you to mix any colour you desire:

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. That is up to you.

Oils - In my own studio I never use White spirit or Turpentine. It is highly toxic and smelly. I recommend Shellsol T which you can buy from Jacksons Art supplies or A P Fitzpatrick (this is a solvent which is an alternative to white spirit to clean your brushes with and thin the oil paint). I recommend that you use a 'Drying medium' (to speed up the drying time). I use a 50/50 mix of Linseed stand oil and Shellsol T. I find this mix odourless and very effective. If you cannot get hold of either of these open all your doors and windows to get lots of ventilation and use the mediums you already have".

Brushes for Oils and Acrylics

Have a variety of brush shapes and sizes: Flats, Filberts, Rounds, Liners/Riggers. For bigger brushes I frequently go to hardware and decorating shops. 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.

Mixing

A large palette or plastic bowls for mixing paints (ice cream tubs are good).

Other materials

Have a selection of drawing materials available, such as charcoal, pencils, felt tip pens, oil pastels, graphite sticks.

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