



Beginner Watercolor

Ages 16+ | Instructor: Paul Cavanaugh

Course Objectives: Students will explore watercolor techniques: direct painting, wet on wet, creating effective washes & layering, color lifting as well as revisiting color theory to paint. We will also explore "Loose" painting, breaking out of the box, putting passion into your work. At the end of the course students will have completed several paintings of their own choosing.

Course Description: Build on your foundational skills and explore the expressive potential of watercolor in this intermediate course. Students will deepen their understanding of watercolor materials, including papers, brushes, and pigments, while refining their control over essential techniques such as wet-on-wet, glazing, dry brush, and lifting. Students will analyze and apply principles of strong painting composition, develop their own visual voice, and complete a series of technical skill assignments.

Student Supply List:

- Paper (Arches, Fabriano or similar 140lb, cold press, (2) 22" x 30" sheets
- Foamcore or Gatorboard backerboard at least 18" x 24"
- Tape for securing paper to backerboard
- Watercolor paint (Tubes preferred, Windsor & Newton, Daniel Smith or similar)
- Palette that you prefer
- Water containers (plastic coffee cans work great)
- Mechanical pencil
- Assorted watercolor brushes
- Tissues, paper towels, spray bottle, sponge.
- Sketch pad

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Discuss what goals students expect. Have conversations as a class or individually to identify specific issues to address.

Week 2: Photographing to paint from, photo enlargement processes.

Week 3: Continue exploring the medium through painting and discussions.

Week 4: Continue exploring the medium through painting and discussions.

Week 5: Basic landscape. Warm and cool colors for depth.

Week 6: Explore tools for painting more thoroughly. Perspective, straightedge, palette knife, scrapers, etc.

Week 7: Continue exploring the medium through painting and discussions.

Week 8: Continue exploring the medium through painting and discussions.

Week 9: Continue exploring the medium and developing final painting.

Week 10: Final critique without judgment, discussions of styles and techniques.
Discuss achievement of goals.