

WATERCOLOURS: Light and Atmosphere- Expressive Landscapes with Leanne Halls

This five-week course explores the exciting possibilities of painting light, atmosphere and the landscape in watercolour. Building on fundamental watercolour skills, students will learn how to simplify a landscape, create a sense of distance and atmosphere, and use the beautiful transparent qualities of watercolour to capture changing light, skies, water and reflections.

Rather than concentrating on fine detail, students will be encouraged to work with confident washes, expressive brushwork, colour and lost-and-found edges, learning how to suggest a landscape without feeling the need to paint everything they see.

Over the five weeks we will explore:

Week 1 – Big Skies

Creating atmospheric skies using wet-in-wet techniques, washes, lifting and soft edges.

Week 2 – Water & Reflections

Exploring reflections, movement and the relationship between land, sky and water.

Week 3 – Mist, Distance & Atmosphere

Using tone, colour and soft edges to create atmospheric perspective and a convincing sense of depth.

Week 4 – Trees, Foliage & Landscape Textures

Learning how to simplify trees and foliage, create natural-looking textures and use varied brushwork without becoming caught up in unnecessary detail.

Week 5 – Capturing the Light

Bringing everything together in a finished landscape, with an emphasis on composition, simplification, focal points and capturing the effect of light.

Students will work through demonstrations, short exercises and finished paintings while developing a greater understanding of tone, colour, composition, edges and water control. The emphasis throughout the course will be on becoming more confident and expressive with watercolour while learning to see the landscape as a painter — simplifying what is there and capturing its light, mood and atmosphere. Suitable for students who have completed a beginner watercolour course or already have some basic experience with watercolour

What to Bring

Paint:

Bring along the following watercolour paints colours.

- Transparent Yellow or Aurelon
- New Gamboge or Quinacridone Gold
- Burnt Sienna
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson or Quinacridone Red
- Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue

It is always advisable to use the best quality paints you can afford. Student quality paints are good when you are learning but please note that they will not yield the exact same results as the artist quality.

Please do not bring along Gansai Tambi to this class as they do not behave the same way that watercolour paints do.

Painting surface:

300gsm or higher watercolour paper is preferred. Hot Pressed, Rough or Cold Pressed can be used. Each type of paper will yield different results.

Paper size:

1/4 sheet to 1/2 sheet for your final work or A4 or A3 sized watercolour paper. Some small scrap sheets for other experiments.

Easel:

Table top easel

Board:

a board to stick your watercolour paper to.

Brushes:

A selection of round brushes with a fine point. Size 12, 8 and 6. A fine liner brush Flat brushes: 1/2" and 1/4" A scuffy brush - one that you don't mind scruffing more. A large flat brush like a hake.

Other Stuff:

- Tracing Paper,
- Palette,
- Palette knife (optional),
- Rags or tissues,
- Water container,
- Water spray bottle,
- Masking tape,
- Pencils & sketchbook,
- Notebook and pen.

Reference Photos:

You can bring your own reference material for this class but I will also be providing reference images

