

Jon Watson Term 3 2026 Class description

Building Realism in Pastel – With Jon Watson

Learn the foundations of realistic pastel painting with professional artist Jon Watson. This course focuses on creating lifelike textures and strong realism through techniques such as underpainting, layering, colour control, blending, and edge work. Students will explore subjects including wildlife, flowers, landscapes, portraits, and natural textures while learning how underpainting can simplify the painting process, establish values, and create depth. Each session includes demonstrations, guided exercises, and personalised feedback, culminating in a finished artwork of your choice.

Suitable for beginner to intermediate artists, with little to no pastel experience required. Participants are encouraged to bring a selection of soft pastels, pastel pencils, and sanded pastel paper up to A3 size. Sanded surfaces are recommended as they allow for greater layering and help students get the most from the techniques demonstrated throughout the course.