

Watercolour Techniques and Skills

With Lynne Brown



This course is suitable for all levels of learning. If you are new to watercolour painting, this course will introduce you to the materials and fundamental skills you need to succeed. If you have some experience, you can build on your skills and increase your repertoire of techniques. We will be learning and using a range of techniques, from the classic to the experimental, that can be taken in a wide range of directions including traditional landscapes, detail studies and more abstract and imaginative work. Along the way we will explore ways to inject interest and personality into our work and I will provide demonstrations and guidance as we go along. We will cover:

- Core watercolour techniques such as layering, wet-in-wet, wet-on-dry and laying washes
- Some non-traditional techniques to loosen things up
- Composition and tonal values
- Useful tips on choosing subjects, choosing and using pigments, equipment and papers
- Colour theory, colour mixing and blending
- Brush marks, calligraphy and edge control.
- Techniques for reserving highlights and whites.

Suggested Materials List:

If you are a beginner and are not sure what to get, I would advise waiting until after the first class to buy them. Just bring along some good quality watercolour paper (see below) and I will advise you and have lots of other supplies for you to use and try out.

- **Artists' quality watercolours:** Ultramarine Blue, Permanent Alizarin Crimson or Permanent Rose, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna or Yellow Ochre, Aureolin or another transparent yellow.
- White gouache
- Masking fluid
- Brushes – A selection of watercolour brushes: Size 10 and 12 rounds are good. A synthetic flat brush, a rigger for detail and a hake brush for washes are useful if you have them.

- 300gsm watercolour paper, preferably medium (cold press) texture. Good quality cotton paper such as Arches, Baohong or Saunders is worth every cent and is a joy to work with. Avoid Art Spectrum watercolour paper or cheap papers, they will make your life so much harder!
- Cartridge paper for practice and sketching. I like Arttec Como pads
- Notebook or art journal
- Backing board for your paper
- masking tape (preferably not blue tape as it affects your colour perception)
- A big white palette, tile or plate for colour mixing
- A 2B pencil and eraser
- Tissues
- Your usual painting kit
- a desk easel if you wish to use one. Alternatively, you can use a rolled-up towel or block of wood to prop up your board and provide a slope.