

WATERCOLOURS: Colour Confidence in Watercolour with Leanne Halls

Saturday 21th November to 12th December 2026

4 weeks

Times: 10am to 1pm

Venue: The Colour Circle Studio

Cost: \$114 Members Only

This four-week course can be taken as a stand-alone beginner course or as a continuation of the beginner watercolour courses offered throughout the year.

Designed to build confidence in using colour, each week we will explore a different aspect of colour and apply what we learn directly to a painting. We will explore colour temperature, colour mixing, colour harmony and expressive colour, while continuing to develop practical watercolour skills.

Course Breakdown

Week 1 — Warm & Cool: Creating Light with Colour

Using a simple still life, we will explore warm and cool colours and how colour temperature can help create light, depth and form. Students will learn to look for colour relationships rather than trying to match an exact colour from a reference.

Week 2 — Mixing Beautiful Colours: Greens, Neutrals & Darks

Through a simple landscape, we will explore how to mix a variety of natural greens, neutrals and rich darks. Students will also be introduced to complementary colours and how they can be used to adjust and neutralise colour without creating muddy mixtures.

Week 3 — Colour Harmony: Less Can Be More

Students will discover how working with a restricted palette can simplify colour mixing and create beautiful colour harmony. We will explore complementary, analogous and triadic colour combinations and apply these ideas to a painting.

Week 4 — Expressive Colour: You Don't Have to Copy the Photograph

Bringing everything together, students will use colour more creatively by deliberately changing the colours found in a reference photograph. We will revisit the importance of tone and discover how good tonal relationships allow greater freedom and expression with colour.

Outcomes By the end of the course, students will have a greater understanding of colour and increased confidence in mixing and choosing colours for their own paintings. They will have learned how to use colour temperature, complementary colours, limited palettes and expressive colour to create more harmonious and interesting watercolour paintings. Suitable for students who have completed a beginner watercolour course or already have some basic experience with watercolour.

Materials

Watercolour Paints

Please bring the following colours:

Yellows: Transparent Yellow or Aureolin; New Gamboge or Quinacridone Gold

Reds: Quinacridone Red; Quinacridone Rose

Blues: Ultramarine Blue; Phthalo Blue (Green Shade)

Earth: Burnt Sienna

Paper

300gsm+ watercolour paper — Hot Pressed, Cold Pressed or Rough. A4–A3 or ¼–½ sheet for paintings, plus a few small scraps for experiments.

Brushes

Round brushes with good points (approx. sizes 6, 8 & 12); fine liner; ¼” and ½” flats; an old/scruffy brush; and a large flat or hake brush.

Other Materials

Tabletop easel; backing board; palette; water container; spray bottle; masking tape; masking fluid; tracing paper; pencils; sketchbook; notebook and pen; rags or tissues.

Reference Photos

Reference images will be provided, or you are welcome to bring your own

