

Painting for absolute beginners, in watercolor.

This class is for anyone who would like to learn the basics of how to paint, but doesn't have the schedule to do a 10-part weekly class, or for those who have painted many years ago and could use a refresher. I teach the class in watercolor but the first three parts translate just as well to all colored mediums (acrylic, oil, pastel and to a certain extent colored pencil).

This is an intensive 1-day class which runs approximately 9am-4:30pm with a short break for lunch (which you should bring). You will work hard and you will learn a lot. All materials are provided but you should wear clothing that you won't worry if you splash paint on. Watercolor is not an especially messy medium though, and this is not an especially messy class, and most paint smears will quickly wash out. Late teenagers and adults are the age range for the class. Small class size allows for plenty of individual attention.

Part 1:

The learning part:

Color wheel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What it is and how it helps us organize our thinking about color.• Invention (Isaac Newton) and history.• How it differs for painting (RYB) and printing (CMYK).• Primary secondary and tertiary colors.• Why it's not the same for paints as for light mixing.• Goethe's theory of opposing colors/complementary colors.• Not having white paint in watercolor.• Neutrals – brown/gray/black
Paints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watercolor vs other water-based paints• Student vs artist grades• Color shift (lightening on drying)• Color palette

The fun part:

- Mixing colors on and off the paper.

Part 2:

The learning part:

Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule of thirds• Contrast and pop• Subject placement
Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using perspective to create depth• Horizon and vanishing point
tonal values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using monochrome tonal values to create depth

The fun part:

- Painting a simple painting with one color.

Part 3:

The learning part:

Light and shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light source and shadows• Cast shade and light reflected into shadows
Colors in the landscape and architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using color to create depth• Using color to create shadow

The fun part:

- Developing a simple painting and see the differences color and shadow make.

Part 4:

The learning part:

Different painting surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watercolor paper – contains cotton to reduce buckling when wet• Hot press, cold press, rough; difference between manufacturers• Weights• Sizing• Meaning of 'archival'• Stretching• Chinese watercolor painting on rice paper• Yupo• Watercolor canvas• Other surfaces
Brushes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wash/flats vs rounds• Riggers• Deerfoot stipplers• Fans• Filberts• Et al
Special techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drybrush• Frisket/resist• Lifting with towels, brushes• Sponges• Salt• Blooms• Granulation/Flocculation• Scratching out• Splatter

The fun part:

- Washes.
- Using all of these in a painting.