

Basic Watercolor & More

at Multnomah Art Center

Instructor: Liz Walker

Explore the mystery and beauty of watercolor while learning the basic elements of design, technique, and application. Focus on color theory and layering techniques to produce rich and interesting surfaces. Learn to use elements of light and shadow, composition, and texture.

This session contains 8 classes to be held on Mondays from 9:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m beginning Oct. 8 and ending Dec3. **There is no class on Monday Nov 12.**

Class Structure

This beginner-level course (with flexibility for more experienced painters) consists of eight 3-hour classes.

- After the first class, each session will begin with a brief and gentle group critique, and the students will be invited to analyze and discuss their weekly progress in a positive way.
- After the critique, the instructor will briefly demonstrate a technique for class members who want to watch (you are also free to begin painting on your own).
- Class time will mostly consist of a 2½ hour studio session where students will learn and practice specific techniques. More experienced students may want to work on their own paintings, rather than on the assignment—that is fine. It’s all part of the painting process!
- The instructor will provide one-on-one guidance, and monitor the progress of each student, with sensitivity to adjust the pace for individual students as required.
- A supply list will be handed out in the first class, including resources on where to find materials at the best prices.

Note: We will try to cover all topics listed herein, but the order may vary. I want the lesson plan to be somewhat fluid and flexible so that the class meets everyone’s needs. I will provide handouts most of the topics so that students may use these for future reference outside of class.

1. Palette Set-Up and Painting Methods
 - Wet Into Wet (creating first layers)
 - Controlling/creating soft edges vs hard edges
 - Putting strong color on damp paper
 - Change colors every inch
2. Color Mixing and Pigments
 - Properties of Color
 - Warm vs. Cool & the Color Wheel
 - Getting a Range of Values within a color
3. Color Mixing and Pigments Pt. 2
 - Color Mixes/Formulas That Produce Results!
 - Complimentary or Opposite colors
4. Underpainting and Negative painting
 - Work with a plan/subject in mind, but keep the underpainting “loose”
 - Defining shapes in the second layer using negative painting
5. Composition and Shape
 - Elements of Design (choose a few at a time)
 - Planning Your Design (Zooming in on a subject).
6. Creating Texture
 - Tips, tricks and methods
 - Less is more—texture in your paintings
7. The White of the Paper
 - Soft edges/hard edges
 - Planning your white spaces ahead of time!
8. Additional Tips/Techniques
 - Watercolor collage: How to salvage—NOT toss!—an old painting