

Exploring Watercolor II with Krys Pettit  
6 week course, 2 ½ hours per week

Designed for the novice and the beginner, this course is designed as a continuation of Exploring Watercolor I, which is a prerequisite. We will focus on building skills and creating a painting using the basics taught in Session II.

The course is for the art enthusiast or hobbyist who is interested in exploring and taking the journey of painting with watercolor. Watercolor is an exciting and beautiful medium that is easy to learn, forgiving, ecologically friendly, portable and easy on the budget.

Samples, Examples, Books, artist's paintings and other visual aides will be incorporated so students can see examples of what is covered in class.

- Subject matter will focus on student's choice of subject to paint; landscapes and florals and still life only – no portraiture, figurative or pet portraits.
- Sketchbook drawing and watercolor will be explored. Suggestions and tips for matting, framing your work and how to become involved in an art community and show your work.
- Age Group – mature adult, 21+
- Some drawing experience helpful but not necessary

### **Lesson One**

#### **How to Start and Design Your Own Painting**

I will bring in a reference for something I wish to paint so they can see how I go about prepping and beginning the process

- Analyzing the painting you want to make
- composition
- editing-no need to always copy
- focal point
- moving your eye through painting
- value sketch
- color samples/study
- drawing your composition
- copyright laws

Demo: I will show how I choose a subject to paint from my 3 sources and how I begin the process.

Project: students will begin the painting of their choice with guidance.

## Exploring Watercolor II

### **Lesson Two**

#### **Continuing Your Chosen Painting – How to Deal with Painting Problems**

- Continue to demo with my painting
- Bad paintings happen to good artists
- learning from the masters
- museum art gallery visits
- bringing in books of other watercolor artists

Demo: I will show how I continue the process to work on my painting.

Project: students will continue the painting of their choice with guidance.

### **Lesson Three**

#### **The Critique – It's About The Good Not the Bad**

- critiquing, stepping back
- knowing what works and how to deal with what doesn't
- let's critique ourselves (not others) – how to be constructive and supportive of YOURSELF and love your work
- have an old matte to see how the painting looks
- the upside down, in a mirror, is a good way to see

Demo: I will critique my own piece. I will show how I continue the process to work on my painting.

Project: students will continue the painting of their choice with guidance. They will privately with me critique their own work.

### **Lesson Four**

#### **Keep It Simple – Sketchbook Joy**

- sketchbooks and daily practice=stress release, time for you
- drawing is the foundation – get a sketch book, strengthen your eye and skills – samples of everyday drawing
- practice, practice, practice – we all do it
- painting on the road or on a trip – a visual diary
- portable setup in a bag
- Choosing another piece to complete and follow the process:
  - value sketch
  - color sketch
  - color samples
  - draw subject

Demo: how to sketch and do simple quick washes; samples of everyday items to sketch and paint; discuss why I chose my second subject to paint.

Project: students will do simple sketches on their paper of everyday objects, adding watercolor washes. Students will choose a second subject if they wish and will begin the process and the steps to the finish.

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### **Lesson Five**

#### **There's No Crying in Watercolor ;)**

- I hate this -- what to do when you THINK it is just awful
- What to do when it's not working
- Challenges and frustration
- never throw it out
- reuse, recycle, make a collage, keep it as a study
- it's art, it is supposed to be imperfect
- go back and look at it in a month – you will be surprised

Demo: I will bring in some pieces I do not like, some pieces I think should be destroyed, and how I would go about fixing or enhancing, fixing or starting over

Project:

Students can continue to work on 2<sup>nd</sup> piece or they can do sketching and watercolor washes of a still life setup in class.

Remind students to bring in all the paintings for the last class we did so we can explore how to mat and present them next week.

### **Lesson Six**

#### **Sharing Your Work, Lifelong Learning**

- now that I have it what do I do with it?
- matting and framing and wiring- basic how to – sources to buy materials
- art organizations, clubs—why they are important
- building an art library—books, yes books to hold in your hand
- going to shows and seeing other people's work—meet and connecting with artists no matter what medium they work in
- where can I show my art, local groups
- building a resume, portfolio, book, website (bring in mine)
- social media and online resources
- share your work with friends, family

Demo: I will bring in my portfolio, collection of unframed and some framed samples, and my book of art exhibit information from last 20 years. I will do handout with names of local and regional art groups, clubs, etc.

I will give them online sources for buying framing material that I have found useful

Project: play around with some mattes I brought in to see how their painting might look framed. Continue on sketching and doing minimal washes or work on their painting of choice.