

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

Designed for the novice and the beginner, this course is for those who are interested in learning the basics of watercolor for the first time. 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 landscape and florals.
- Designed as a basis and prerequisite for Exploring Watercolor II.
- Age Group – mature adult, 21+
- Some drawing experience helpful but not necessary.

Lesson One

The Basics

- What is watercolor
- why we use the paper and brushes we use
- mixing 3 primaries to create new colors, then adding more colors
- wetting the paper – working moist, wet
- creating color swatches

Demo: Mixing colors, working with wet and dry paper, brush explanation, making color swatches

Project: After practicing and mixing custom colors, student will make bookmarks using the large sheet of paper they made color swatches on. Using template to trace, they will cut bookmark out, sign it, and attach a ribbon. You'll have a bookmark and a way to use your watercolor practice sheets!

Lesson Two

Let's Paint A Landscape

- class will learn to paint a simple landscape using minimal colors
- exploring washes, dry brushing, wet on wet
- how to draw your composition, keeping simple shapes
- mixing colors—matching what is in your source

Demo: I will paint the simple landscape showing them techniques to try

Project: simple landscape (sky, water, trees)

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Lesson Three

Creating Another Simple Landscape

- mixing darks, greys, black
- warm vs cool colors
- focal point and eye magnets – moving around the painting
- creating a seaside landscape

Demo: I will demo mud, greys, dark colors. Demo will then move to simple seaside landscape and composition, color choices

Project: students will paint a simple seaside landscape

Lesson Four

Simple Techniques Add A Punch

- continue seaside landscape
- drawing over what you already painted
- getting those values right
- adding dark values, shadows
- try lifting, dry brushing, splatter
- refine with pencil, fine line marker
- develop your signature

Demo: lifting paint, darkening values, dry brush, splatter. Will show drawing on top of watercolor and painting over, and using fine line marker to enhance

Project: students will continue seaside landscape, practicing various simple techniques; those who have completed will begin drawing floral for next lesson

Lesson Five

Florals and Still Life

- florals/still life – how to make them come alive
- value sketches and thumbnails
- how to mix greens effectively
- leaving in the white
- washes for increasing values and shading
- keep it simple – mixing paint on paper

Demo: I will do thumbnail and value sketch for the floral, will demo drawing and color samples, and will begin painting

Project: Students will begin simple floral with value study, thumbnails, color study and continue process; student encouraged to start researching what they would like to paint in next session. (no figures, pets, or portraits)

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Lesson Six

Creating Interest – What Should I Paint Next? (bring in ideas for Session II)

- focal point in a landscape, still life – perhaps begin another simple floral
- laying out the painting – 1/3 points on paper, golden mean
- How to fix oopsies
- rules for painting – can you break them?
- Don't overwork, make sure your colors sing and sparkle
- how to choose your own subject matter to paint: photos, copying masters, Pinterest and copyright rules

Demo: examples of focal point, 1/3 points on paper, golden mean, leading your eye through a piece using another one of my simple florals as example

Project: students will continue on their 1st floral or begin a new floral, adding depth, interest with more techniques. If complete florals, they can start analyzing and working on what they want to paint in Exploring Watercolor II

kwp
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