

Robert Yonke's Watercolor Workshop, Beyond the Medium's Boundaries Continued

Whatever medium is used, the objective of the artist should be to produce quality paintings. While it may seem daunting, novel and experimental use of the media tends to enhance artwork and adds another dimension of fun. The results of the techniques employed will be loose, spontaneous and exciting with lots of happy surprises.

Using this as the primary direction, this workshop focuses on taking watercolor beyond the boundary of conventional techniques and substrates. We will explore the use of water-based materials on a primed surface and gessoed surface. We will use stretched canvas as our substrate knowing that the techniques can be employed on any surface with the proper preparation. We will use the May workshop as a base and will review the steps discussed last time. As such, new attendees would not be at a disadvantage at all. For those familiar with these techniques and concepts, more time will be spent on individual consultation. With the addition of the following steps, the class will continue the outline and materials from the May Class.

Specific areas of discussion and activity may include:

- What makes a "quality" painting?
- Design principles to ensure success.
- The power of contrasts, as demonstrated in values, colors, shapes, edges, detail, etc...
- The power of surprises – encouraging happy accidents...
- Ways to push the watercolor boundary.
- The value of critiquing...self and others
- How to avoid overworking
- Subject matter
- Painting on location
- Sketching for painting
- Non-painting activity for self-improvement

All of the discussion points will be addressed individually and incorporated into the working part of the workshop.

We will also spend some time on what I've learned from taking these techniques out of the studio to locations of various types. This would include a demo of a "make-it-yourself" plein air outfit, with an example of one I built earlier this summer.

Materials

Watercolor paint

Brushes

Watercolor Sticks (I prefer Derwent Aquatone) or Pencils

Yupo paper

Arches Watercolor Board (suggested but not necessary)

Small stretched canvas 8 x 10, 11 x 14, 16 x 20

Water container

Spray bottle

Drawing materials; charcoal, pastel

Gesso and hard edge applicator

Paper towels, tissue

Old bath towel to work over (catches spills and run-off)

Alcohol

Old leaves, grass, sticks, etc. to mix in the applied gesso surface