



**COURSE:** CONNECTED TO NATURE

**TUTOR:** KATIE SOLLOHUB

**DATES:** 23 – 24 APRIL 2019

## ABOUT THIS COURSE

This is a two-day drawing course that will introduce different ways of engaging with and connecting to nature. These include walking, guided meditation and gathering samples from the nearby landscape. The course is an opportunity to: be more present in nature; notice the passing of time / seasonal changes; and increase your awareness of how to connect with nature using physical sensations such as touch, sound and smell. The course will begin with journeys out into nature in order to collect materials and visual information which can then form a nature-laboratory back at the studio. We will be putting nature under the magnifying glass to create close-up studies using a range of drawing materials (including earth and natural pigments).

Working in series, you will be observing how change, sensation, different touch, and time passing can become the subject, almost like a narrative, rather than all of this going into one final piece of work. The series is the work.

Lots of artists have worked small and in series for practical and investigative reasons. We will be looking at John Virtue's *Tree* drawings and Alvaro Petritoli's *Fragment* series as examples, as well as Katie's own daily practice of small paintings from her kitchen table. We will also look at paintings by Terry Winters and Per Kirkeby as examples of artists working from nature.

## TIMETABLE

### Day one: Tuesday 23 April 2019

The course starts promptly at 9.30 so please make sure that you arrive no later than 9.15 to find your space and have a cup of coffee. Katie will welcome you and introduce the course. The day will end with a review of the work and finish promptly at 4.30 pm.

Time	Activity
am	Meeting in the studio, introduction to each other and the course. Group discussion about what it means to be connected to nature. Meditation and trip outside to local woodland, either walking or in cars (5 mins away). Gather materials from immediate surroundings, walking meditation, plus drawing and writing in situ.

pm	Back to the studio to examine our findings. Start to organise visual and written information, set up studio space, make more drawings based on what you have brought back. Check and prepare surfaces for the following day (buy canvas, boards or paper for priming, and decide on a theme for your series if appropriate). Plus additional visit outside if needed.
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## Day two: Wednesday 24 April 2019

Time	Activity
am	Guided exercises and approaches to start working in series from your studies. Working on several at a time. Meditation will be used to trigger a memory response to place, and sensation, as needed. You can choose to work on paper, or on prepared/primed canvas or boards.
pm	Continuing with your own work, in series. Working on several at a time, revisiting, reworking, as necessary. Group and one to one discussion. Concluding your series of drawings. Stop at 3.30pm to present work for final review and discussion 4-4.30pm.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### What you need to bring:

- drawing materials including charcoal, pencil, pens (plus others like graphite if you have)
- charcoal or graphite powder (optional)
- rags and rubbers
- black and white gouache (we can provide these, or you can get in the shop)
- inks (studio has some basics to borrow)
- any other coloured watercolours, gouaches etc that you already have
- coloured drawing materials could include felt tips, posca pens, chalk pastels, oil pastels. A range of any.
- PVA glue and pritstick
- brushes
- masking tape
- small pots with lids, and or bags, for gathering materials outside
- a portable bag/box for carrying materials outside, and something to sit on - the studio can provide very handy rucksack stools, which serve both purposes
- wear suitable clothes and shoes for outdoors, including waterproofs, plus layers for the studio, we never know what the weather will be doing, it can be hot or cold!

- a camera, a magnifying glass, binoculars if you have any
- any nature books/nature and art books that might inspire you.

### **What the studio supplies:**

In the studio, we have stocks of paper and primed unstretched canvas that students can buy as required.

For this course we will have a variety of paper for you to purchase: watercolour, velin arches 300gsm (rough) and Fabriano (smooth).

In the Seawhite shop you can buy small wooden boards, ideal for both drawing and painting on, once primed - either A4 size or 15cm x 15cm. You can buy them on day 1, for use on day 2.

Easels, boards and palettes will be ready for you to use. There are pots for water, solvent and mediums. We have a stock of acrylics, oils and mediums for students to use if you run out or want to try them. There is spare drawing equipment to borrow.

Please be advised that NO WHITE SPIRIT OR TURPENTINE IS ALLOWED IN THE STUDIO.

### **THE SEAWHITE SHOP:**

The shop is open Monday – Friday from 9 am - 4.45 pm and 9am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All the products they sell are amazing value, at warehouse prices and so you might want to stock up with sketchbooks and materials while you are on the course. If you prefer to order before the course, you can preview their stock by visiting [www.artesaver.co.uk](http://www.artesaver.co.uk). Items can be pre-ordered and packed ready for you to collect by calling 01403 712270, quoting the codes obtained from the website, however, if you physically go into the shop to buy your supplies, the prices are slightly cheaper, so always worth a visit.

### **REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH:**

Tea, coffee, herbal teas and biscuits are available throughout the day. There will be tea breaks but feel free to help yourself whenever you need a drink. Bring a pack lunch. There is a fridge and also a microwave. If you need to buy some lunch there is a bakery/sandwich shop in the middle of Partridge Green that sells sandwiches, salads and hot food.

### **STUDIO DRESS CODE:**

In the studio make sure you wear clothes that do not matter. The space and equipment is in constant use and we cannot guarantee that it will be paint free from the previous groups. As the weather gets colder make sure that you wear plenty of layers to keep warm in the studio. It is a big space and difficult to heat at a constant temperature all day. Emily recommends wearing a [Thermal Boiler suit](#). They keep you really warm and clean!!

**STUDIO ADDRESS:**

Seawhite of Brighton  
Avalon Court  
Star Road Trading Estate  
Partridge Green  
RH13 8RY

**GETTING TO THE STUDIO:**

We have a map on our website. <http://www.emilyballatseawhite.co.uk/contact-emily-ball.html>

The studio building is the 1st large warehouse on your right after the Seawhite Showroom/Shop. Turn into the entrance and keep driving to the end past the skips and palettes on your right. There is a small car park behind the warehouse, just for the studio, and you will then find the studio up a flight of stairs.