

COURSE: DRAWING AND PAINTING THE HEAD

TUTOR: KATIE SOLLOHUB

DATES: 23 – 25 SEPTMEBER 2019



ABOUT THIS COURSE

Painting and drawing the head is more than just about getting a likeness. It is about form, and expression, the direction and quality of the mark. It is about the gaze, the character of the pose, the turn of the head, the angle of the neck, the light.

The course will begin with some experimental drawing exercises. Using charcoal as the primary medium, from both short and long poses, you will be encouraged to look differently and experiment with marks and materials, in order to make very direct responses to observing the head, whether by taking a line for a walk or sculpting form out of charcoal dust.

You will then go on to make further expressive studies in paint both from long and short poses, exploring overlapping layers, and the flesh like quality of paint being pushed and pulled around the form. Experimenting with marks and materials throughout the course, you will come away with 2-3 paintings which are a vibrant response to the subject.

TIMETABLE

Day one: Monday 23 September 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	Introduction and experimental drawing exercises, from the self as well as from the model, to get in tune with a more than just visual approach
pm	Using charcoal and paint to make expressive studies of the head, from the model, from all directions, building up an understanding of the whole head

Day two: Tuesday 24 September 2019

Time	Activity
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Am	Different ways into a painting - warm ups and exercises that can be done straight to canvas/board, as well as more studies
pm	Continuing with the paintings, alternative ways in, starting 2 or 3 during the day, working alternately on them throughout.

Day three: Wednesday 25 September 2019

Time	Activity
am	warm up if necessary, continue with own work, 1-2-1 tuition
pm	short session to resolve some/all paintings, before tidy up and review

BEFORE THE COURSE:

No specific preparation needed, but drawing your own head is a fascinating thing to do, simply as observation practice. Why not try a daily practice, 10 days of daily portraits - work through that initial pain barrier of looking at yourself!

Look at artists working expressively from the head e.g. Van Gogh, Marlene Dumas, Soutine, Frank Auerbach, Francis Bacon, Picasso.

There is an interesting BBC radio 4 programme (see link below) you could listen to, to think about how much non-visual information can be used in the visual art of drawing and painting.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0001d9h>

COURSE MATERIALS

What you need to bring:

Drawing stuff

Charcoal, rags, rubber, pencil and pens (fixative if you need, to be used outside only), coloured pastels or pens if you have them

Painting stuff

A range of colours, in oils or acrylics, starting with the basic : 2 reds (Alizirin, Cadmium); 2 yellows (lemon and cadmium); 2 blues (Cerulean or cobalt and Ultramarine). Plus white. From these you can mix a wide range of other colours, but if you have some additional favourites (e.g. magenta, turquoise, a yummy green, black or paynes grey) then do bring them.

- mixing mediums - gloss/matt, runny/thick, your choice, for oils or acrylics, to mix and help the paints flow, give body, do glazes, layer etc.
- for acrylics, Seawhite sell Vallejo gel medium and pouring medium
- for oils, NO TURPS OR WHITE SPIRIT - Zest it or Shell Sol T are good alternatives, for mixing, diluting colours, and cleaning brushes

- linseed oil is good for mixing with paints, though it extends drying time. Liquid and other mediums will help dry more quickly
- a range of brushes from small (rigger) to very large (including household brushes if you have them)
- pots with lids for oil mediums, any pots for acrylic
- a large palette (There are pots and palettes at the studio to borrow)
- kitchen towel and greaseproof paper to cover your palette
- rags, baby wipes
- 3 painting supports of your choice (canvas, board, paper) of the same shape and size, to work on all 3 during the course.
- a camera/phone camera to record your work in progress
- a sketchbook for notes and info, if you have one and like to use one

What the studio supplies:

In the studio, we have stocks of paper and primed canvas that students can buy as required. 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. Shellsol (this is a solvent which is an alternative to white spirit to clean your brushes with and thin the oil paint). You can buy this directly from [A P Fitzpatrick](#) online. Please be aware that LUKAS MEDIUM 3 contains a lot of turpentine. A lot of artists use this, and while it's okay in private studios, it is not safe in larger quantities and particularly without adequate ventilation. Some of our students who like to use Lukas 3, now use a mix of shellsol and Linseed oil in group sessions instead. Liquin with oils is really good if you need to speed up drying time.

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. 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.