

## **Experiments in Watercolour**

**Tutor: Simon Carter**

**Date: November 24th – 26th 2020 (Tuesday - Thursday)**

**Time: 10am to 12pm**

**Course fee: £120**

Experiments in Watercolour is a three day practical course led by Simon Carter. The course aims to have a fresh look at the medium of watercolour and how it might be used in an expressive, experimental and contemporary way. The course will not be about technique, but will seek to use watercolour in a bold and painterly manner. Students will be working from drawings and will be required to make a series of drawings prior to the course starting.

Each day will start with live online demonstrations. Students will then have their own studio time to immerse themselves in the process of painting, being encouraged to be bold and experimental in their approach.

A gallery page on the website has been set up for students attending the course to post their work on line. We will be able to look at the results of each days work. This will be a way of celebrating our shared experience and gaining extra inspiration. It also gives Simon the opportunity to see the work and give one to one feedback, to help progress and confidence.

### **Day one:**

We will begin by working from drawings, looking at finding watercolour equivalents for drawn marks and seeking simple, bold structures. We will aim to work with spontaneity and speed, producing a series of improvised variations.

*Working in your own time and studio for the rest of the day. At 4.30pm photograph your work and email a maximum of TWO images to [gallery@emilyball.net](mailto:gallery@emilyball.net)*

### **Day two:**

Today we will look at how to use yesterday's studio watercolours as source material for further painting. In a process of tearing, cutting and collaging we will look at strategies for keeping the painting energetic and alive. We will look at the decision making process and how to approach the watercolour with freedom and attack.

*Painting in your own time and studio for the rest of the day. At 4.30pm photograph your work and email a maximum of TWO images to [gallery@emilyball.net](mailto:gallery@emilyball.net)*

### **Day three:**

Today we will enlarge the previous day's work, looking at how we can use watercolour at scale and with the ambition of work on canvas. We will take yesterday's collaged watercolour as our starting point and make a large, multi-sheet watercolour. We will look at ways of

thinking about what you are making, and re-emphasise strategies for keeping the painting energetic and alive as it progresses.

*Painting in your own time and studio for the rest of the day. At 4.30pm photograph your work and email a maximum of TWO images to gallery@emilyball.net*

**Simon will look through the work you have produced and send you feedback and advice about the work and possible ways to go forward.**

## **Course notes**

**Dates:**

**Tutor: Simon Carter**

**Cost: This fee includes:**

Live group tutorials each morning from 10am – 12pm. From 1 – 4 pm students work on their own in their own studio spaces.

At the end of each day you will be encouraged to email just TWO photos of the work made that day. These will then be put into the course gallery on the website for the whole group to see.

Each Zoom session will also be recorded. You will be emailed one link which will enable you to view all the recordings as they become available at the end of each day. (This link will only be available for 30 days after the course ends).

A shared group Facebook page called **Experiments in Watercolour** is set up. Send a friends request and you can be part of the group sharing images of your work and discussing your progress and observations.

**At the end of the course Simon will look through the work you have produced and send you feedback and advice about the work and possible ways to go forward.**

I will be using Zoom for our Video Communication. It is really easy to use. I will set up a 'Meeting' for each day of the course and you will be emailed a link to enable you to join the meeting at the specified time. I will be online from 9.30am so you can check in before the 10am start. To familiarise yourself with it, perhaps download Zoom and practise using it with family and friends so that you feel comfortable and confident using it.

**If you need to stock up with materials then Seawhite are still delivering orders.**  
<https://www.artesaver.co.uk/>

## **How students need to prepare**

### **You will need to organise your work space.**

Make sure that you have enough room to work, and some wall space to put up studies and paintings as you go through the course. Allow yourself enough space to be free with materials and have several pieces in progress at the same time. Consider how you would like to use your space in a way that feels inspiring and allows room for plenty of experimentation. Be organised. It will really help the flow of your work and keep your head clear too.

### **IMPORTANT: Source material to work from.**

The course relies on previously made drawings as source material, so you will need to make a sequence of drawings before the course starts. This is essential to the course.

### **Drawing instructions**

The course work will be based on drawings that you have made before the course starts. It is essential that you spend time making a series of drawings to work from. Look to make at least ten A4 drawings, orientating the paper the same (portrait or landscape) each time. Make all the drawings of the same view of the same subject.

Find something that interests you, that has a certain complexity and a range of textures, surfaces, shapes and colours. Maybe a view in your garden or street, your greenhouse or shed, a local park or nearby landscape, a street view or a business park. Visit it multiple times and repeatedly draw it. Think about how your subject fills the whole paper, top to bottom, left to right - and is a series of interesting, interlocking and overlapping shapes and rhythms: trees in a wood, boats in a harbour, a factory service area or a collection of buildings. Make drawings that delineate shapes and suggest textures and different surfaces. Look at the way lines intersect and shapes fit together. The drawings will be a network of lines and marks that respond to your observations and suggest a framework for the studio paintings.

Draw with vigour and purpose, and be bold. Drawings can be made with graphite stick, charcoal, pencil or crayon, oil pastel or brush and ink. Keep it purposeful, and keep looking.

## **Gather and prepare your materials**

### **Paper**

A supply of A4 cartridge paper for drawing. Weight of paper is not critical. Whatever you can get your hands on.

A supply of watercolour paper. Weight of paper is not critical but I would suggest either A2 or A3. As we are going to be tearing and collaging it might be good to use a cheaper paper. I usually use Bockingford Not surface 190gsm or Seawhite's own brand 225gsm.

**It will make the course easier to follow if you stick to the suggested paper sizes!**

## **Paint**

It is wise to use good quality watercolour, usually labelled as artist paint, it is easier to handle and produces cleaner, brighter colour. However, as we will be painting on a large scale student colours will be adequate to experiment with. Tubes provide the paint in more readily available quantity.

It is not critical what colours you use, but it is easier to handle a limited range of colours. Although I have many colours to hand, the core colours that I am currently using are:

Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red or Vermillion, Alizarin Crimson, Permanent Rose, Cerulean Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Sepia, Venetian Red and Sap Green and Neutral Tint.

## **Brushes**

Have a variety of brush shapes and sizes, the larger sizes will be the most useful.

## **Mixing**

You will need small containers, dishes or palettes with reservoirs to mix the colour. Also good size pots for water, and a supply of kitchen paper.

## **Other materials**

Have a selection of drawing materials such as charcoal, pencils, pastels, or crayons just in case...

To aid in collaging the watercolours, you will need scissors, masking tape and glue.

***Any queries regarding the things on this list please email me with questions.***