

Expressions in Paint Curriculum

Artascope Studios Yarmouth

Instructor: Catherine Bickford

This class will give participants a chance to experiment and explore different ways of approaching the painting process. It is designed to be a friendly and supportive environment for you to learn new techniques and to try out a variety of approaches to painting. You are here to learn, so don't be afraid to fail. Failure is, after all, just another step in the journey toward success.

In each session we will create a painting from start to finish. Sometimes we will work on a "step by step" painting where you will follow a prescribed path in order to learn the process. Sometimes you will be encouraged to paint from photographs and interpret your own composition and color palette. We will also paint from life (still life painting) so that you begin to understand the process of seeing value in the world around us. Painting from life is the most difficult but often the most rewarding process.

The idea here is to learn the rules, but also learn how to indulge your own intuition.

We will work in Acrylic paint because it lends itself toward fast painting.

Class One: How Value works to provide structure to a painting

Using a step by step example will learn how VALUE is a key construct in creating a painting. We will learn how value is used to create the perception of depth and dimensions as well as placement in the foreground or background of a painting. You will create a complete painting in this class from beginning to end.

Class Two: Mini Art History Lesson: Impressionism, Fauvism, Expressionism

We will learn how to take a familiar subject and alter it using different marks and color schemes to create energy and emotion. We will learn about the artist who created the expressionist movement and why they choose to paint in a new way.

This will led us to examine the intention of our own paintings. Do we wish to create a portrayal of an object or a portrayal or an experience?

Telling a story. "Having something unique to say" is an important aspect of any successful painting. How can you include elements that create your own story? Can you combine two ideas into one image to illustrate a unique perspective?

Class Three: Learning How to Draw

Drawing and Painting are very different mediums. Basic drawing can be very helpful when establishing a painting and its composition. The class will approach still life with two different drawing techniques and creating with Line and Shape. Discover the “essence” of how simple lines create expressive images. This week’s painting will focus on creating basic forms using the least number of lines & shapes.

Class Four: Seeing and Mixing Color

Color mixing is an enjoyable process and a skill that requires practice. Many people have difficulty mixing the colors they want. In this class we will learn how to use the six basic colors (Cadmium Red, Quinacridone Magenta, Cadmium Yellow Medium, Cadmium Yellow Light, Phtalo Blue, Ultramarine Blue and Titanium White) to create almost any color. We will work with color scales that allow us to create colors in steps and increase our skill in mixing color. You will also learn about how the color wheel is organized and how to create simple color harmonies using complementary and harmonious color.

Class Five: Playing with Composition

One of the things that makes a painting compelling is its composition. Experiment with scale, arrangement, balance, and angle to create dynamic composition. This week’s painting will focus on creating emphasis through the placement and size of objects within the painting.

Class Six: Texture and Mark making

How we apply paint changes everything about the painting. Experiment with thick paint, thin washes, glazes, stippling, blending wet paint and more. This week’s painting will push you past your “typical” painting style as you try out-of-the-box techniques. Texture layers using fancy mediums and more.