

2023 T.L.C. Fall Art Workshop
“Inspiring and preserving great art in the plains.”

Finding your Voice in Art instructor: Cynthia Rosen
September 15-20, 2023

Description:

The gift of making art in the USA today is that we are free to choose our medium and style. Oddly enough, that gift presents perhaps our greatest challenge.

In the process of making art, I found a passion for color as well as a non-traditional form of painting, painting with the palette knife. But being a teacher at heart, I believe the greatest gift I can give my students is helping them discover their own ‘visual voice’. That is their personal talents which will help them find both greater joy and success in their work.

How do you want to create an image? Do you prefer classical representation or are you more inclined to paint impressionistically or do you want to abstract an image? It is not technique alone that makes for a successful painting. Painting with your heart and natural talents helps images become successful.

While I am a firm believer in the need for traditional drawing skills, I like to help individuals foster their natural proclivity. Are you great with color but need better drawing skills? Do you have great drawing skills but weak composition? Do you need to better understand perspective and the different ways to use it? These are just a few of the questions we can work to answer.

In the process of enhancing skill development, I aim to help you find your own natural gifts. Art is a universal language but how you want to portray your interests and thoughts is up to you.

5-Day Itinerary:

Day 1: The introductory talk and demo will address art as a common language; the use of space, shapes and composition; introduce and illustrate some of the concepts behind perspective, and the role of value and color in creating an image.

On this day we will work from still lifes in the studio. This will help me understand how you see, where your strengths lie, and in what way I can challenge you to further your skills.

Day 2: Day 2 will start with a demo highlighting color mixing. How to use warm and cool colors and how colors can move the viewers eye through your image. I will demo with oils using both the brush and a palette knife, introducing the strengths and weakness of each tool, using a still life as the subject.

On day 2, you will be given the option to work outside (plein air) or in the studio on the same or a different still life, focusing on color. The Leadership Center has a lot of plein air options right outside the door of the studio, close enough for me to move between the two locations to provide assistance and crits.

Day 3: On Day 3, I will demo a landscape in acrylic. Weather permitting, we will do this outdoors. The medium you use is just a tool, the image you create is what matters. (I Finding your Voice in Art instructor: Cynthia Rosen September 15-20, 2023 Materials for class will also bring some gouache and a watercolor pan). I will discuss the traps presented by working from photos and once again use and compare the paint brush to the palette knife. I will push atmospheric perspective as well as illustrate how to effectively paint trees.

Your day will once again offer the option to work in the studio or move outside. You will be able to work from your own landscape photo if you so choose. Day 4: Today's topic and demo will be about inorganic objects such as architecture and other geometric structures. This is where perspective and value really come into play! I will also highlight the importance of edges and illustrate the relevance of both line and color temperature in the effective portrayal of structures. You will have the option to work outside or encouraged to use structural objects in the room (pieces of furniture, windows, corners, etc.) to paint an interesting image.

Day 5: I will review the proportions of a face and a figure. I will then move onto how to quickly and effectively sketch or paint a figure into an image. I will push the element of form and illustrate how shading comes into play but will make my demo brief. This is your day to really focus on honing specific skills to make your own artistic decisions evident.

On this last day, any and all subjects are now on the table. If you want to paint a portrait or a figurative image, a specific location or building, you should bring a photo you would like to work from. This is your day to paint that which interests you and/or challenges you the most. You will have the entire day to work on a quality painting or drawing (if you so choose a drawing medium). Once again, it is the image that counts.

Composition will always be a consideration in whatever the daily subject. An extra note: Still life objects in the classroom will always be available and with the knowledge that people work at different paces, there is no preconceived expectation for a specific number or kind of completed works.

Please keep in mind, that no matter the 'subject of the day', so to speak, everyone's individual style of image making will be foremost on my mind. My aim is to enhance your skill development simultaneously while helping you find and use your personal strengths and talents in creating an image.

I am really looking forward to meeting and working with you.

All my best, Cynthia