

WORKSHOP | BEGINNER'S WATERCOLOUR | CHARLES WILLIAMS RWS

Saturday 23 March 2019 | 10am – 4pm

Course Description:

Back to basics! A course for beginners and those who feel they have missed out on the vital principles of this deceptively difficult medium, and who want to develop their understanding of the fundamentals of classic watercolour painting.

- wash, gradated wash, tinting, shading, colour to colour, developed wash techniques, correcting, use of gouache, body colour and painting over.
- types of perspective, watercolour drawing, making form in light and dark, shading and cast shadow.
- composing a work, textural experiment and ways to make some short cuts

Structure of the day:

Morning:

Introductory talk on the general principles of watercolour

- Simple wash exercises.
 1. Wash.
 2. Gradated wash.
 3. Shading
 4. Tinting
 5. Colour to colour.
 6. Experiment with colours.
- C. More complex wash exercises.
 7. Large wash.
 8. Correcting –
 - i. Lift off
 - ii. Gouache
 - iii. Painting over
 9. Atmospheric perspective.
 10. Stretching paper.

Afternoon:

- Making Form.
 1. Light
 2. Shading
 3. Cast shadow
- Ruskin Exercise.
 1. Watercolour Drawing
 2. First layer of tone
 3. Subsequent four layers.
- 'Alla prima' Still life painting.
 1. Drawing for watercolour.
 2. Layering colours.
 - Texture experiments.
 - Plenary

There will be a 40 minute lunch break, but students are welcome to continue working over this period, if they wish.

About the Tutor:

Charles Williams RWS is a painter, writer and lecturer. Currently Programme Director of Fine Art at Canterbury Christ Church University, Charles is also the author of *'Basic Drawing: How to Draw What You See'* and *'Basic Watercolour: How to Paint What You See'* and writes regularly for The Artist magazine. His approach is informed by a long interest in the history of artists' methods and techniques.

'Charles' approach is factual, concise and informative though leavened with humour and anecdote... As an approach to getting back to basics, something we all need to do from time to time, the lesson could not be faulted...no one felt that they were being 'taught down to. After a tiring but fulfilling day we came away with a lot to think about and a lot learnt.'

SEAW Newsletter, April 2011

Required Materials

- Watercolour paints: either tubes or pans
 - Colours: should include Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine, Lemon Yellow, and Black.
 - Paper: sheets, pads or blocks of 300gsm paper.
 - Brushes: a small round one, a medium round one, a half-inch or inch wash brush.
 - Jam jars and an old plate on which to mix your colours.
 - 2b and 3b pencils
 - A craft-knife
 - A rubber
 - A coffee mug as Heatherley's has gone disposable cup-free, but tea, coffee and milk are available for students
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Other Practical Information for the Day of the Workshop

- The workshop is held at **The Heatherley School of Art, 75 Lots Road, London SW10 0RN (020 7351 4190)**
- On Saturdays there is some parking on the premises and a paid car park nearby.
- Entry to the College is through the front door and tutors and students must sign in at the office. Doors open at 9.30am for the tutor to set up, and 9.45-10am for students.

- You would be wise to bring a packed lunch as most of the nearby sandwich shops are closed on a Saturday. However, if you wish to buy food, there are two pubs within 2 minutes' walk of the school, *The Ram* on Burnaby Street, and the *Lots Road Pub & Dining Rooms* on Lots Road. There is a large subterranean café called *Jak's* also on Lots Road on the corner of the Kings Road. There are two Tescos about 10 minutes' walk away, one by Imperial Wharf Station and one on the Kings Road, going west at the Esso Garage. Please bring your own tea and coffee cup as Heatherley's no longer provides these in a bid to help the environment. They will however provide tea, coffee, hot water and milk.
- Heatherley's is on the London Overground and their station is Imperial Wharf, which is about five minutes' walk away. www.Tfl.gov.uk can help plan your journey and Heatherley's also has useful information on their website <https://www.heatherleys.org/contact/find-us/>
- If you are painting still life, objects found in other studios may be used.
- At the end of the day the office staff leave at 3.30pm. Classes must leave promptly and Heatherley's recommend that you have your class cleared up by 3.50. The door is locked at 4.00pm by a Heatherley's tutor, as RWS tutors do not have keys.
- The tutor will be provided with a list of students attending the course, but not their contact details.

If you are unable to attend last minute on the morning of the workshop, please contact the Heatherley's Reception (020 7351 4190) after 9.30am and they will pass on the message to the tutor. Bankside Gallery's phones will not be answered until 11am. **Please be aware we do not offer course fee transfers or refunds unless it is us who cancels the workshop.**

