

WORKSHOP: Expressive Landscapes in Watercolour: Inspired by Kurt Jackson with Sophie Knight RWS

Price £115

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Tuesday 5th May 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

In this workshop, you will draw inspiration from Kurt Jackson's energetic, layered landscapes to explore watercolour as a medium for immediacy and expression rather than detailed representation. Through demonstration and guided exercises, you will experiment with gesture, mark-making, layering and abstraction to capture atmosphere, weather and seasonal change.

Suitable for those looking to loosen their approach and build confidence in expressive landscape painting.

Morning

- Initial introductions
- Sophie will introduce the group to her and Kurt Jackson's work. The group will look at several expressive paintings which use watercolour in a loose and bold manner. Sophie will show the group how each painting responds to the landscape or seascape in a dynamic and vigorous approach.
- Sophie will do an artist demonstration, showing techniques that she uses to work more freely in her own work and will relate this to examples of Kurt Jackson's seascapes and landscape paintings. Techniques include 'wet on wet', drawing with brushes and working quickly on large colour washes.
- Sophie will provide a selection of landscape photos to work from. The group will begin to explore the techniques demonstrated earlier and work on a small scale, developing ideas for a larger composition in the afternoon.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- The group will continue to develop their own skills with the methods demonstrated in the morning.
- Sophie will help students take their compositions into a larger scale. Working on an A1 size piece of paper (or similar large pad) students will develop their own personal approach to the landscape.
- Sophie will offer one to one advice, direction and suggestions throughout.
- Review: there will be a chance to view each other's work and an opportunity to ask questions.

About the Tutor

At the age of 24 Sophie graduated from the Royal Academy of Art, won 'The Hunting Group Young Person Award' and became an Associate Member of the Royal Watercolour Society.

Much of Sophie's work is done outside, working directly from the landscape or cityscape. Her watercolours are worked in an energetic and vigorous manner, squeezing paint straight onto the paper, scratching in marks and drawing directly with a brush, she aims to retain the freshness and vitality of her visual excitement and record the physical experience of working within the landscape.

She is in numerous private collections including The House of Lords, The New Parliamentary Building, London, TSB Bank, Freshfield Solicitors and Pilkington's International.

Materials

- **Winsor & Newton Cotman 8ml tubes** in the following colours; Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Sienna, Sepia, Indigo Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue, Cerulean Blue, Chinese White. Student quality tubes are recommended by Sophie.
- **3 sheets of A1 size paper:** Any watercolour paper is fine, preferably not hot-pressed and light weight such as 90lb/ 200 grams Saunders Waterford Not or Rough texture, or Arches 90lb / 200 grams Not or Rough texture are recommended by Sophie. This size paper is sometimes referred to as Imperial size.
- **A selection of different sized brushes:** including round and flat. Sophie recommends a large flat brush of at least 1.5 inches if possible. Economy synthetic brushes are fine. These often say for use in acrylic or watercolour.
- **Water pots:** Jam jars or yoghurt pots are fine

- **Palette:** e.g. a large dinner plate or a tupperware container with a lid
- **Loo roll**
- **A HB pencil**
- **A plant spray container:** or something similar for spraying a fine mist of water onto the paper

Useful Links:

Kurt Jackson

<https://artuk.org/discover/artists/jackson-kurt-b-1961>

<https://www.kurtjackson.com/exhibitions/>

Sophie Knight

www.sophieknight.co.uk

<https://www.instagram.com/sophie.r.knight/>

Location



RWS Gallery
3-5 Whitcomb Street
London
WC2H 7HA

Just off Trafalgar Square
Nearest tubes Leicester Square and
Charing Cross

Nearby parking is very limited. There is a Q-Park multi-storey car park at the top of Whitcomb Street that charges around £9/hour. If you wish to travel by car we recommend checking nearby parking on parkopedia.com

Lunch & Refreshments

Lunch is not provided and it is recommended that you bring your own food and drink for the day, which can be consumed in the gallery. Students are welcome to use the gallery fridges to store their food and drink. There are also many cafes nearby including a Pret-a-Manger next door to the gallery.