

## **WORKSHOP – Bold Abstracts** with Tessa Pearson ARWS

**Price** £100

**Location** RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

**Date** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024

**Time** 10.30am - 4pm

### **About the Workshop**

This workshop is inspired by the bold abstract paintings of Patrick Heron and Albert Irvin. You will experiment with the special qualities of watercolour and gouache, looking at different aspects of transparency and opaqueness and how to combine them. Subject matter may be from sketchbook references or studio still life arrangements and you will make various studies exploring these ideas leading to a more considered final painting.

This course is suitable for those with a small amount of experience in water-based media and who are willing to experiment.

### **Morning**

- Introduction to gouache and watercolour, and their differing properties.
- Introduction to the works of Patrick Heron and Albert Irvin, and other artists working with gouache, examining their technique.
- Demonstration of techniques, including experimenting with aspects of transparency and opaqueness, wet in wet, layering, flat and textured.
- Students experiment and paint samples.
- At this point you will not be concerned with subject matter, and the group will share ideas on possibilities.

### **Afternoon**

- Break for lunch
- In the afternoon you will work on larger more finished paintings; sourcing abstract compositional ideas from your sketchbook material or photographs. Tessa will discuss her own process and working methods to create abstract ideas.

- She will work with you individually to discuss possible ways gouache would work with your own painting methods.
- Review: there will be a chance to view each other's work and an opportunity to ask questions.

## About the Tutor

Tessa Pearson is a painter and printmaker living in the Surrey Hills, south of London. She graduated from the Royal College of Art in Printed Textile design, winning the Courtauld prize, and had a successful career selling hand painted fabrics all over the world from her London studio and gallery.

Transferring her skills, Tessa now uses painting as her preferred medium, working exclusively on paper with watercolour and silkscreen monotypes. Her influences have been many, from Matisse to Hodgkin and the bold colourists of mid twenty-first century painters Patrick Heron and Albert Irvin. Known for her exceptional use of colour, Tessa's recent work focusses on patterns and colour experienced in inspirational gardens both her own, and from her travels in Morocco, which she interprets in her very recognisable style.

Tessa has taught painting at every ability level for over 30 years and continues to enjoy inspiring and guiding painters in experimental techniques.

## Materials

- **A selection of gouache** – Tessa recommends Winsor and Newton tubes, or Lascaux gouache in small bottles is good. Your selection should include white and black.
- **A selection of watercolours:** tubes of artist quality are best and should include a good range of reds/blues and yellows.
- **Paper:** loose paper is best. A2 or A3 size, approximately 6-10 sheets, depending on how large/fast you work. Tessa recommends Saunders Waterford 300g NOT paper, but Bockingford A3 300g/140lb NOT paper is good value for experimenting.
- **Reference material:** sketches, old paintings (preferably not photographs) which you can use as starting points for a finished piece, garden photographs.
- **Sketchbook or notebook:** a small sketchbook or notebook would be handy for notes and thumbnail sketches.
- **Palette with large deep wells.**
- **Water pots:** two large water pots and some small plastic pots for larger amounts of wash.
- **Brushes:** bring what you have including a few older rough brushes. A 10-20mm wide flat brush will be useful too.
- **Pencils.**

## Useful Links:

[www.tessapearson.com/watercolour](http://www.tessapearson.com/watercolour)

## 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](http://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.