

WORKSHOP Drawing the City: Exploring Viewpoint & Perspective with John Duffin RWS

Price £125

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Thursday 29th October 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

Learn how to draw the city of London with artist John Duffin RWS. Working initially on location in the heart of central London, you will explore how to capture some of London's most iconic landmarks, focusing on viewpoint, perspective and composition.

The morning will be spent drawing around Trafalgar Square, with John demonstrating different drawing approaches and how to identify an interesting viewpoint and gather visual information. Working within a set timeframe, participants will create a series of drawings and studies, experimenting with perspective, composition and different ways of seeing the city.

Returning to the gallery in the afternoon, John will demonstrate how to develop these drawings by introducing colour to enhance the composition. Participants will select and refine one of their studies, developing it into a more considered finished piece.

This workshop is designed for individuals with a basic understanding of drawing and acrylic. You must be comfortable working outside for the first half of each day.

Morning

- Initial introductions
- You will head out to draw as a group with John around Trafalgar Square.
- John will demonstrate his personal approach to drawing, focusing on viewpoint, perspective and composition.
- You will create a series of observational drawings and quick studies, gathering as much visual information for your chosen location.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- The afternoons will be gallery based
- In the afternoon you will work on creating a more finished painting from the observational studies you made on location in the morning
- John will demonstrate how to approach the development of a finished drawing, giving demonstrations on how he introduces colour to his drawings.
- Looking through what you produced in the morning, you will focus on a chosen study to develop it into a more considered finished piece.
- John will offer one to one advice, direction and mini demonstrations throughout.
- Review/crit: there will be a chance to view each other's work and an opportunity to ask questions.

About the Tutor

John Duffin trained as a Naval Architect and Ship Draughtsman working for the Ministry of Defence before studying BA Fine Art at Goldsmiths' College London alongside the Britart generation in the mid 1980's. He studied MA Printmaking at Central St Martins and his training as a draughtsman and printmaker have fed into his mark making and sense of composition and design in his works on paper. He uses acrylic and watercolour and works from drawings and colour studies made from life, these are then used in his studio to create his images of urban spaces and city lighting. He favours wide perspectives and high angles to capture the energy, crowds and loneliness of urban life. He is influenced by graphic novels, film noir and UK and US modernism.

His work has won many prizes and is in many public collections including V&A, Fitzwilliam Museum, Museum of London, BBC, Arts Council and in many private collections.

Materials

Please bring the materials you are most comfortable working with. John will work with a range of drawing and painting media, so you are welcome to use your preferred medium.

- **Sketchbook or drawing paper** with a hard backing for working outside
- **Pencils, pens and/or charcoal** for sketching
- **Eraser**
- **Your chosen painting medium**, in a selection of colours (e.g. acrylic, watercolour or inks)
- **Brushes** suitable for your chosen medium, in a range of sizes
- **Paper for final colour work**, in a size that suits you
- **Palette or large dinner plate**
- **Water pot**
- **Drawing board clips**
- **Portable stool** if you would prefer to sit while working outside
- **Raincoat and umbrella**, if needed, depending on the weather

Useful Links

Instagram: www.instagram.com/johnduffinartist/

Website: <http://www.johnduffin.co.uk>

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.