

WORKSHOP: Finding Your Voice Through Still Life: Inspired by Mary Fedden & Winifred Nicholson with Wendy Jacob RWS

Price £115

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Friday 22nd of May 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

This workshop explores still life through the work of Mary Fedden and Winifred Nicholson, using gouache, a versatile medium that allows for layering, building colour, and working with both detail and bold, expressive shapes.

These two women artists had very different but equally powerful approaches to still life. Nicholson responded directly to her subjects, creating paintings full of light, space, and atmosphere, while Fedden drew on a personal visual vocabulary of objects and places, composing bold, structured images with dense, vibrant colour. Both were exceptional colourists, yet their approaches diverge in tone and saturation. Working from arranged objects, you'll be encouraged to experiment, gain confidence, and let your own voice flourish.

This workshop is suitable for beginners.

Morning

- Introduction to gouache with a practical exercise in mixing gouache, focusing on consistency and colour, to demonstrate how different gouache is from watercolour. You will make a very small painting on card provided by Wendy.
- Wendy will discuss the importance of thinking hard about setting up your still life with reference to various artists, including Winifred Nicholson and Mary Fedden.
- You will set up your own still life and make very small drawings, which will help you see how the arrangement could be altered, furthering your understanding of the importance of composition.
- Start the painting – continue until lunchtime.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- After a quick appraisal of the morning's work, you will continue to work on your painting with personal teaching as the works develop.
- Review: Shortly before finishing for the day, Wendy will lead a group discussion about each other's work and give an opportunity to ask questions.

About the Tutor

Wendy has lived in London for most of her life, including her formative years studying at art school, which led to a career as a freelance illustrator. As her focus increasingly shifted towards painting, she began submitting work to open exhibitions across the city. This brought notable success, including selections for the New English Art Club and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. In 2005, she was elected an Associate of the Royal Watercolour Society (RWS), later becoming a full Member and serving a term as Vice President.

She works primarily in gouache, an opaque water-based medium known for its versatility and capacity for both vibrant and subtle colour. Her current practice centres on still life, where she explores colour, form and composition through the careful placement of familiar objects. The contemplative nature of her process is well suited to the forgiving qualities of the medium.

Materials

- **Watercolour paper**
- **Selection of brushes** - you don't need the best quality. Include one or two larger sizes – a number 6 or 8 and some smaller ones.
- **Tubes of gouache** – Winsor and Newton's Designers Colours are recommended. You can manage with just the primaries red, blue, yellow and white. (Cass Art often have good value small starter packs for sale)
- **Palette** or something to mix your paint on
- **Water pot**
- **Pencil & eraser**
- **Masking tape**
- Some **absorbent paper** (kitchen roll)
- Bring some **small objects** for setting up a still life

Useful Links:

Mary Fedden:

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/search/actor:fedden-mary-19152012/page/3>

Winifred Nicholson:

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/search/actor:nicholson-winfred-18931981/page/5>

Wendy Jacob:

<https://www.wendyjacob.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/Swendyjacob>

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.