

WORKSHOP Painting the Sea: Water, Reflections & Shadows in Watercolour with Cesc Farré

Price £125

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Friday 30th October 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

In this workshop, Cesc Farré will explore how to paint the sea and sky in watercolour, focusing on techniques for depicting water, reflections, light and atmosphere.

Through demonstrations and step-by-step guidance, you will learn how to paint different qualities of water, from crashing waves and shimmering reflections to transparency and subtle shadows. You will also explore wet-on-wet techniques for creating skies, looking at how the movement of watercolour can be used to suggest clouds, changing light and different atmospheric conditions.

Cesc will share his own working methods throughout the day, helping you develop these techniques and apply them to your own seascapes and skies.

Suitable for those who have a basic understanding of watercolour.

Morning

- Cesc will introduce his three fundamental elements for painting water: transparency, reflection and shadow.
- Through demonstrations and practical exercises, Cesc will break down each technique, showing how these elements can be used to create convincing water and reflections.
- Working from reference images, participants will put these techniques into practice, experimenting with different approaches and creating their own studies.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- The afternoon will focus on painting skies, with an introduction to wet-on-wet techniques. Cesc will explore how subtle changes in light, temperature and contrast can suggest different times of day, from dawn and midday to dusk.
- Participants will practise these techniques, exploring how wet-on-wet washes can be used to create different skies and atmospheric conditions.
- Participants will then develop a more considered piece, drawing on the techniques explored throughout the day.
- Review: a chance to look at each other's work and ask questions.

About the Tutor

Cesc Farré is an elected member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour, an honorary member of the Accademia Internazionale dell'Acquarello, and a member of the Agrupació d'Aquarel·listes de Catalunya. He has also collaborated with art materials brands Da Vinci and Schmincke, who have developed products in connection with his work, including his signature pigment, Ocean Grey. He also holds industrial design patent No. 0539967 from the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office for his use of crumpled paper as a pictorial medium.

Now focused on his artistic practice rather than the competitive award circuit, Farré focuses his practice on material research and the study of light. Alongside his work as an artist, he teaches through masterclasses and is the author of *Mares y Cielos* (Seas and Skies), encouraging artists to develop their own artistic approach.

Materials

- **Watercolour paints:** recommended colours include Ocean Grey or similar blue-grey, Lemon Yellow, Quinacridone Gold or warm golden yellow, Vermilion or warm red, Opera Pink or bright magenta, Burnt Sienna, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue, Phthalo Green, Cobalt Turquoise, Payne's Grey.
- **Watercolour brushes:** round brushes in a range of sizes, including approximately sizes 4 and 12, a smaller round brush for detail, a larger brush for washes.
- **Watercolour paper:** preferably 300g/m² (140lb) cold-pressed, fine-grain watercolour paper. In A4/A3 paper for exercises and studies, and larger sheets approximately 38 × 56cm for the final piece.
- **Water containers:** Jam jars or yoghurt pots are fine
- **Palette,** or large dinner plate
- **Pencil & eraser**
- **Fine mist spray bottle:** or a plant sprayer for spraying a fine mist of water onto the paper

Useful Links

Website: www.cescfarre.net

Instagram: www.instagram.com/cesc_farre_art

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.