

WORKSHOP Seen As They Are: Portraits in Watercolour Inspired by Alice Neel with Mark Entwisle RWS

Price £115

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Thursday 21st May 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

This workshop invites participants to explore portraiture through the honest and intimate lens of Alice Neel. Participants will work from life to capture presence and individuality in the sitter. Emphasising authenticity over perfection, this session invites participants to slow down, look carefully and create portraits that are distinctive, sensitive, and characterful.

This course is open to all levels, but it would be beneficial to have a small amount of experience in watercolour.

Morning

- Initial introductions and group discussion on expected outcomes from the day
- Mark will introduce the group to Alice Neel's work, discussing her choices in composition, subject and mark making.
- Artist demonstration. Mark will demonstrate the mixing of skin tones, application of paint, complimentary colours and how to consider composition. Mark will also discuss the importance of understanding the anatomy of the body, especially the structure of the skull and how it relates to the face you are drawing/painting.
- You will then work directly from a live clothed model. You will start the morning with a warmup of short poses, building up to a series of longer poses. You will focus on observation, capturing gesture and presence over perfection.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- The group reflect on the work done in the morning and revisit Alice Neel's work.
- In the afternoon you will work from one pose, creating a considered observational painting. You will work on developing depth, colour and character.
- Mark 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

Mark studied illustration at Brighton University and was an illustrator for 15 years. His previous commissions include the National Theatre production of *Wind in the Willows* and book covers for P G Wodehouse, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Auden, Joanna Trollope, Aldous Huxley and many others. During his 15 years as an illustrator, Mark continued to feed his need to paint and began showing at galleries in Bath and London in the 1990s. He has won Art prizes including the Hunting Art Prize, the Discerning Eye Founders Prize and The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition. After winning a prize at the BP Portrait Awards, Mark was invited to teach students at the National Portrait Gallery and has been teaching ever since. He most recently has taught at The Art Stables in Finchley, ArtHouse in Crouch End and at Art retreats.

Materials

- **Watercolour pad A4 or A3:** preferably Hot Press or Not (smooth or slightly textured). Recommended brands are Arches paper or Bockingford.
- **Watercolour set:** recommended colours include Lemon Yellow, Yellow Ochre, Naples Yellow (if possible), Burnt Sienna, Vandyke Brown / Burnt Umber, Ultramarine Blue, Turquoise, Cadmium Red/ Vermilion, Crimson, Sap Green, Phthalo Green, Payne's Grey
- **Brushes:** two or three round head brushes. Size 4 and 8 would suffice but a larger brush or flat headed brush for larger washes could be useful. Recommended brushes are Da Vinci sable brushes, but synthetic brushes are fine and more affordable for the bigger sizes.

- **Palette** (large plate is also suitable)
- **Water pot**
- **Pencil and rubber**
- **Clips:** for drawing board

Useful Links:

Alice Neel:

<https://www.aliceneel.com/works>

Mark Entwisle:

<https://markentwisle.co.uk/portrait/>

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.