

WORKSHOP Still Life at the Table: Inspired by Pierre Bonnard with Chloe Cheese RWS

Price £115

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Thursday 14th of May 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

Explore the richness of colour, composition, and imagination through still life painting in the style of Pierre Bonnard's intimate domestic scenes. You'll set up a tabletop arrangement, make observational drawings, and then develop expressive watercolour paintings full of bold colour and playful detail.

This workshop is suitable for all levels and encourages experimentation and a fresh approach to everyday objects.

Morning

- Initial introductions.
- Chloe will introduce the group to the work of Pierre Bonnard looking at his intimate domestic interiors and the well known richly coloured table scenes. Chloe will explain how Bonnard first created linear sketches and then used them as the foundation for his richly coloured final compositions, often altering the viewpoint and perspective to produce his distinctive atmospheric works.
- Chloe will present work from her own archive to explain her creative process and how she incorporates personal objects into her still life compositions.
- Participants will set up a shared table-based still life using crockery, fruit, flowers and textiles.
- After making a series of pencil sketches while moving round the table, participants will choose their preferred composition to work from.
- At this stage, the group will also experiment with layering colour and developing backgrounds. Bonnard frequently used paint to create texture and movement rather than relying on line.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- A brief review of the work will take place before the final pieces are created, giving the group a chance to inspire one another and revisit Pierre Bonnard's paintings. However, the day is primarily about each person selecting the elements that resonate with them and developing an understanding of what personally appeals to them.
- Participants will work at their own speed to produce final work which can be just one or several paintings at any size.
- Chloe will offer one to one advice, direction and suggestions throughout.
- Review/crit: there will be a chance to view each other's work and an opportunity to ask questions.

About the Tutor

Chloe studied at Cambridge Art School before completing an MA in Illustration at the Royal College of Art. She went on to work as a freelance illustrator while continuing to develop her own practice through printmaking, drawing and watercolour. During this period, her travels to Japan and Paris had a strong influence on her work.

Alongside her practice, Chloe has extensive experience teaching. More recently, she has led mono printing workshops for students on the Camberwell Illustration MA. Earlier teaching roles at Central Saint Martins, Goldsmiths and Middlesex University broadened her interest in delivering workshops for a wide range of participants, from young people to adults, across different settings.

Chloe now works primarily as an artist and printmaker from her home in South London. She also runs an annual workshop for the Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden, which houses a collection of work by artists connected to the area, including Chloe herself. As a child, she lived in the village of Great Bardfield in Essex with her artist mother, an experience that continues to inform her practice.

Her work is always rooted in observational drawing.

Materials

- **Watercolours** - a selection of colours
- **Soft pencils & eraser** for drawing
- **Brushes** - a few of different sizes
- **Cartridge paper** for sketching
- **Watercolour paper** as cartridge paper is only suitable for sketching
- **Water pot**
- **Palette** (large plate is also suitable)
- **Clips:** to secure your work to a drawing board
- **Wear old clothes and bring an apron if you use pastels or charcoal.**
- **Optional: pastels, gouache and charcoal** can also be used in this workshop if preferred.
- **Optional: some of your own sketches.** Participants may want to incorporate a figure or background from their own previous drawings and work.
- **Optional: personal photos** of people, rooms, windows etc, if you're wanting to incorporate elements relating to your own experiences.

Useful Links:

Bonnard's work is widely available in books, online and also in museum collections.

Chloe Cheese:

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

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.