

WORKSHOP Watercolour and the Contemporary English Landscape Inspired by David Hockney with Suzy Fasht RWS

Price £115

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Saturday 9th May 2026

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

In the early 2000s David Hockney moved away from the camera and returned to painting by hand. He chose watercolour, a medium he had rarely used and painted the East Yorkshire landscape, where he had worked the fields in his youth. His works captured stippled fields, receding lanes, British weather and skies, puddles and seasonal changes in the farmland.

Inspired by his approach, this workshop explores Hockney's visual language: how to simplify form, draw directly with the brush, and build dynamic and contemporary compositions. Through guided exercises, you'll experiment with mark-making, colour, and construction, learning how to capture atmosphere and shifting weather and light.

Suitable for all levels, the day begins with quick warm-ups to build confidence, before moving into practical studies of Hockney's techniques. You'll then apply these ideas to your own landscape, creating a vibrant and personal watercolour.

Morning

- Initial introductions.
- Suzy will introduce David Hockney's East Yorkshire watercolours exhibited in the Hand Eye Heart exhibition at the Barbican in 2005 via visual references.
- Suzy will lead a session of guided brush drawings to explore Hockney's methods with a brush.
- Suzy will continue with guided thumbnail sketches to explore Hockney's composition devices including roads, scale and simplification.
- Suzy will discuss colour palettes to match the subject.
- Using chosen examples from Hockney's watercolours, students will make their own studies of parts of the paintings in order to understand how they might have been made.

Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- Using visual ideas from the morning, students will make their own watercolour landscape based on their own well known place.
- Suzy will offer one to one advice, direction and mini demonstrations throughout.
- Review: Suzy will lead a group discussion about each other's work and give an opportunity to ask questions.

About the Tutor

Suzy Fasht was born in London and studied painting at the Royal Academy Schools and Wimbledon School of Art. Her paintings are a response to the nearby moor, woods and garden at her home in South Devon, reflecting the changing seasons and produce. Working in watercolour, oil or egg tempera at different scales, the starting point is always the natural world, on the spot drawings or working directly from observation then interpreting and rearranging these in the studio.

Suzy is an experienced and qualified painting tutor with many years 'experience teaching for Devon County and in privately run classes and workshops.

Materials to bring

- A **pad of watercolour paper** no smaller than A4. Choose paper which is 190lbs or heavier if possible.
- **Watercolour paint** in primary colours of your choice (reds, yellows, blues) tubes or a box of pans, - preferably artists 'quality paint or Cotman (which is the student range for Winsor & Newton)
- A **notebook**
- **Soft brushes** to use with watercolour
- **Jam jars / yogurt pots for water**
- Some sheets of **kitchen roll**
- **Palette** with enough room for mixing, or similar such as plates / Tupperware lids
- **Pencil**
- **Rubber**
- **Reference images:** bring a selection of English landscape images or drawings, particularly of places where you enjoy being or you are familiar with.

Links

David Hockney

<https://www.thedavidhockneyfoundation.org/chronology/2005>

Suzy Fasht:

www.suzyfasht.com

www.instagram.com/suzyfasht/

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.