

WORKSHOP Watercolour & Ink: Exploring Mark-Making with Tessa Pearson RWS

Price £125

Location RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

Date Wednesday 28th October

Time 10.30am – 4.30pm

About the Workshop

In this workshop, you will explore the expressive possibilities of combining watercolour and ink. Experiment with watercolour washes alongside drawn lines, textured marks and the distinctive effects created by Indian and acrylic inks.

Working from sketchbook references or studio still-life arrangements, you will create a series of studies exploring colour, line, texture and mark-making. You'll consider how these elements can be used to describe form, suggest movement and create atmosphere, before selecting and developing ideas into a final piece.

This course is suitable for those with some experience in water-based media who are willing to experiment.

Morning

- Tessa will introduce the participants to watercolour and ink, including the different types of ink available and their properties.
- Tessa will introduce artists including John Blockley, John Piper and Suyao Tian who combine ink and watercolour, considering how they use the materials in their work.

- Tessa will demonstrate techniques, exploring different ways of applying ink, tools and mark-making, working with mixed media, and experimenting across different surfaces.
- Participants will create a series of samples and studies, exploring the materials without focusing on subject matter.
- Discussion: the group will share ideas and discoveries and consider the possibilities for developing the techniques further.

Afternoon

- Participants will develop a larger piece: working from the still-life arrangement or their own sketchbook references, they will begin to apply the morning's experiments to a more considered painting.
- Tessa will discuss her own working process and work individually with participants helping them explore how ink can be incorporated into their existing painting approach.
- Review and discussion: an opportunity to look at the work produced during the day, share ideas and ask questions.

About the Tutor

Tessa Pearson is a painter and printmaker living in the Surrey Hills, south of London. She graduated from the Royal College of Art in Printed Textile design, winning the Courtauld prize, and had a successful career selling hand painted fabrics all over the world from her London studio and gallery.

Transferring her skills, Tessa now uses painting as her preferred medium, working exclusively on paper with watercolour and silkscreen monotypes. Her influences have been many, from Matisse to Hodgkin and the bold colourists of mid twenty-first century painters Patrick Heron and Albert Irvin. Known for her exceptional use of colour, Tessa's recent work focusses on patterns and colour experienced in inspirational gardens both her own, and from her travels in Morocco, which she interprets in her very recognisable style.

Tessa has taught painting at every ability level for over 30 years and continues to enjoy inspiring and guiding painters in experimental techniques.

Materials

- **A selection of watercolours:** tubes of artist quality are best and should include a good range of reds/blues and yellows. A tube of Winsor and Newton Permanent White gouache would be useful
- **Inks:** you will need a small bottle of black Indian Ink, a small bottle of black acrylic ink and coloured inks if you have them – sepia, indigo, yellow, etc.
- **Paper:** loose paper is best. A2 or A3 size, approximately 6-10 sheets, depending on how large/fast you work. Tessa recommends Saunders Waterford 300g NOT paper, but Bockingford or Fabriano A3 300g/140lb NOT paper is good value for experimenting
- **Reference material:** sketches, dried seedheads, leaves etc would be very welcome
- **Sketchbook or notebook:** a small sketchbook or notebook would be handy for notes and thumbnail sketches
- **Palette** with large deep wells
- **A few empty small yogurt type pots** for acrylic inks
- **Water pots:** two large water pots (and a small bucket if you can fit one in...!)
- **Brushes:** bring what you have including large watercolour brushes and a few older rough brushes
- **Bamboo dip pens**, any other drawing implements you can find
- **Pencils**
- **Eraser**
- **A wax candle stub** for resist, and maybe some **collage papers** and **glue** would be fun to use too

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.tessapearson.com/watercolour>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tessapearsonart/>

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.