

Summer Portrait In Oils - Zarahn Southon

This 5-day course will focus on traditional copying and direct wet-on-wet (alla prima) oil painting. Students will paint two portraits completed over five days. The morning session will involve copying from selected master portrait paintings. Teaching methods will focus on palette organisation, colour, tone, light, proportion and anatomical structure. Techniques learnt in the morning session will be applied to painting from life in the afternoon. Students will receive individual feedback with demonstrations and discussions on principles of light, colour and form.



Course Schedule

Day 1: Planarity

9:30 - 11:45am 20 min. introduction and discussion on block-in, contour, and Restructured Realism. Students begin drawing with charcoal or painting directly on canvas copying from a master portrait painting – using a photocopy or iPad as reference.

12:30 - 3:30pm 40 min. block-in life painting demonstration. Students begin underpainting block-in and contour from life.

Day 2: Light & Perspective

9:30 - 11:45am 10-20 min. discussion on light, planar orientation, terminator and shadow shapes. Students begin underpainting in monochrome or dead colour.

12:30 - 3:30pm Students will be encouraged to reassess their block-in contour and make any corrections necessary. Proportion and distinguishing the terminator from light planes will be emphasised.

Day 3: Structure & Volume

9:30 - 11:45am Students will begin form painting with medium. Structural anatomy in relation to Ted Seth Jacob's The Dictionary of Human Form will be discussed.

12:30 - 3:30pm Demonstration of rounding form and structure. Students will begin form painting with medium. Emphasis will be on structure, pathways and basket weaving.

Day 4: Rounding & Tonal Gradations (ribbons of light)

9:30 - 11:45am Students will explore structure in relation to light. How to give the impression of plasticity by placing brushstrokes side by side and placing in context with the overall light. Emphasis will be on the underlying light effect of the entire head.

12:30 - 3:30pm Demonstration of rounding form and structure, light scale technique and tinting. Students continue working.

Day 5: Finishing

9:30 - 11:45am The morning will involve emphasising planes and correcting areas of the painted form in relation to the light source.

12:30 - 3:30pm Students complete painting.