

New Visions: Painting the Still Life in Oils *with Matt Carter*



Week 1: Introduction and course outline

Introduction, course outline and a first Achromatic painting. We'll talk briefly about supports and grounds and get straight into a painting in the first week. Using charcoal on a white ground you will draw up your composition, and mix a range of neutral tones for an achromatic (without colour) painting. We'll be painting Alla prima or (wet-on-wet).

Week 2: First painting - tonal

In week two we'll mix a mid-toned ground with gesso tinted with a dark gesso or acrylic paint. Using a simple viewfinder made from card, sight your composition and draw it up on your board or canvas. We'll mix a chromatic black and mix a tonal range with the addition of a single strong colour on your palette paying attention to the tonal values of the real life objects and the tones you are mixing. Complete the painting in one session.

Week 3: Contrast of light and dark

This week, we'll set up some stronger light source to produce strong contrast of light and dark. We'll discuss some colour theory and Itten's seven 'colour contrasts'. We will produce a painting contrasting light and dark using an earth colour. (Umber or ochre)

Week 4: Contrast of saturation

For your 4th painting we will contrast saturation. Choosing one of the six primary or secondary colours as a strong high saturation colour to contrast with low, dull colours of the same base.

Week 5: Complementary pair

For your 5th painting we will be looking at the colour wheel to choose a complementary pair of colours eg: blue/orange, red/green, or yellow/violet.

Week 6: Exploring more colour

This week we'll use a full range of colour focussing on Realism following the tonal value over colour rule.

Week 7: Underpainting in acrylics

Using an acrylic earth colour of either burnt sienna or transparent brown iron oxide or raw umber, we'll paint a quick underpainting before proceeding with our oils.

Week 8 - 9: Your choice of colour scheme

In the last two weeks, you can choose a colour scheme from one of the seven colour contrasts and think about subjective use of colour or you can decide a natural objective approach.