

Watercolour in close-up

This class is suitable for all levels of learning.

It can be fascinating to look closely at the world around us and capture some of the wonderful colours, textures and details we see. A close-up view lends itself to a whole range of approaches from detailed and delicate studies through to the abstract and impressionistic. This term we will be looking up close at different subjects including birds and plant life, rust and weathered wood.

I will provide lots of photo references for you to work from but you will also be encouraged to go out explore the world through your own lens and I will also provide lots of useful tips on how to make the most of your photos.

We will take each subject at a relaxed pace and I will take you in detail through the steps to create your paintings. Along the way we will look different techniques you can apply to any subject in watercolour, including:

- Core watercolour techniques such as layering, wet-in-wet, wet-on-dry and washes
- More experimental techniques such as under-surfacing and adding ink and other media
- Composition and tonal values
- Useful tips on choosing and using pigments, tools and papers
- Colour theory, colour mixing and blending
- Brush marks, calligraphy and edge control.
- Techniques for reserving highlights and whites.

Suggested Materials List:

- **Artists' quality watercolours:** Ultramarine Blue, Permanent Alizarin Crimson or Permanent Rose, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna or Yellow Ochre, Aureolin or another transparent yellow but NOT cadmium yellow.
- Optional but very useful: Cobalt blue, Cerulean blue.
- Masking fluid
- Brushes – A selection of watercolour brushes: Size 10 and 12 rounds are good. A synthetic flat brush, a rigger for detail and a hake brush for washes are useful if you have them.
- 300gsm watercolour paper, medium (cold press) texture. Good quality cotton paper such as Arches is essential!
- Cartridge paper or “draw and wash” paper for practice and sketching
- Notebook or art journal
- Backing board for your paper
- Tape: masking tape (preferably not blue tape as it affects your colour perception)
- A white palette, tile or plate for colour mixing
- A 2B pencil and eraser
- Tissues
- Your usual painting kit
- a desk easel if you wish to use one. Alternatively, you can use a rolled-up towel or block of wood to prop up your board and provide a slope.

This is just a suggested materials list. I will have lots of supplies for you to try and if you are unsure about what to get, just bring some good quality paper along and whatever other materials you have to the first lesson. I am happy to provide advice about what to get as we go along.