

BILL VRSCAK
WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP
CLASS DESCRIPTION

WATERCOLOR: MAKING EVERY STROKE COUNT

Level: Intermediate to advanced

I have a “go for the essentials and make every stroke count” approach to painting, no matter the medium. I believe this lends a sense of freshness and clarity to the work. I also believe that the simplest statements make the most impact.

Emphasis in this workshop will be on helping students find the essential elements and qualities in the subject matter, and through demonstrations and group critiques show how to present these essentials in a simple, direct way. The object is to eliminate extraneous information and details, and simplify the subject. Students will be encouraged to look beyond the representational aspect of the subject to the dynamics of contrast, light, movement, space, etc; elements which help make paintings come alive. Students may work outdoors, weather permitting, or indoors from their own photos and sketches. I will have some photos available for students to use if needed.

Classes will start with a demonstration at about 9:30 am, which lasts about two hours, after which students will work on their own paintings until approximately 3:00, (break for lunch or work while you eat). During this period I will be in class working with students on an individual basis. At 3:00 we stop for a group critique of about one hour before breaking for the day. Class is usually finished around 4:00 or 4:30, depending on the number of students.

I will provide a recommended materials list upon request, but students may bring whatever materials they usually use and are comfortable with.

This workshop is geared toward *intermediate to advanced* watercolor painters.

Although this is not a beginners class, beginners are welcome but they should have some drawing experience and at least some experience with another medium and be aware that they may be hearing many things related to techniques and design principles that they may not be ready for.

Students who wish to work in other media are welcome, i.e.; oils, acrylics, etc. However I will critique those works from a design and expression standpoint only. In those cases I will not offer technical critiques; that is information related to instruments, brushes, pigments, mediums or supports, in media other than watercolor.