

Centre for Lifelong Learning

**Watercolour Painting: Portfolio Class**

**Class Code:** OS127 (10 credit points)

**Rationale**

This is the fifth in a series of watercolour painting classes offered within the Applied Arts Pathway of the Open Studies Certificate Programme. It progresses from the class *Taking Watercolours Further 4 (OS287)*. The central aim of the class is to extend the student’s learning by supporting them towards developing an independent direction using the skills and techniques they have learned through previous watercolour classes or practical experience. Students will identify personal subject matter, influences, and other research relevant to generating and developing ideas, and identify and develop the skills and techniques needed to realise their ideas. Peer assessment will be an important element as it will give participants the opportunity to explain and discuss the processes involved in the creation of their work, and thus further develop self-assessment and independent learning skills. Students will be encouraged to reflect on, and explore, their creative thinking through a combination of relevant influences, working out compositions, expression of mood, and selection of appropriate watercolour techniques.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Collate and discuss images and other influences that stimulate the generation of ideas for subject matter, technique, composition or mood.
* Develop ideas and observed drawings for painting projects in sketchbooks or equivalent.
* Show confidence in experimentation with technique within sustained painting projects.
* Plan a creative approach to developing projects through keeping a reflective diary.
* Reflect on own strengths and weakness in the use of watercolour and creative development.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the art world in terms of how exhibitions and galleries operate and how this relates to the students’ work.
* To develop a portfolio of work which reflects your chosen direction and/or media.

**Content and Curriculum**

Participants are expected to have a good understanding of the principles of watercolour painting as covered in Learn to Paint (Watercolours/Acrylics) (OS642) and Taking Your Watercolour Painting *Watercolour Painting 1,2,3 and 4 (OS658, OS649 and OS287)*. These classes are not formal pre-requisites but it is expected that students will progress through these levels before embarking on the ‘Portfolio’ class. For example, it may be the case that a student would undertake a class elsewhere which would facilitate their entry in to a more advanced class.

The following represents an overview of the main areas to be covered. It does not necessarily represent the order in which topics will be addressed, nor does it imply that equal time will be devoted to each topic.

* Researching and identifying influences.
* Exploring personal ideas through sketchbooks.
* Creating an individual approach.
* Individual and paired tutorials to encourage personal development through discussion, reflection and evaluation of own work.
* Identifying and investigating techniques appropriate to development of ideas.
* Peer assessment appropriate to an advanced class.
* A Guide to galleries and how they operate

# Modes of Delivery

## The class will be delivered through practical sessions. Projects will be developed in class through discussion between tutor and students, and will be supervised and guided by the tutor. The tutor will introduce group exercises and/or demonstrations where appropriate.

The class can be delivered on a weekly (over 8-10 weeks) or fortnightly (over 20 weeks) basis according to programming needs and demand.

# Assessment

There are two elements to the assessment:

1. A portfolio of collated influences, idea generation and development presented in sketch books or folders, and at least 2 paintings demonstrating personal direction and confident use of watercolour techniques and materials (one of these will be formally assessed through peer review) (100%)
2. The submission of a 500 word (+/- 10%) reflective Logbook detailing the student’s experiences during the class and their participation in class activities.

All elements of assessment must be submitted and deemed satisfactory by the tutor before the student can be recommended for the award of credit. A sample of work will be second marked prior to scrutiny by the Open Studies External Examiner.

# Class Materials

Given the advanced nature of the class, there will be no materials list for the class as students will be encouraged to use their existing materials. Advice and guidance on purchase of appropriate or supplementary materials will be given by the tutor as required.

**References**

Suggested book and web references include:

Harrison, H (2004) *The Encyclopedia of Watercolour Techniques* (Tunbridge Wells: Search Press)

Harrison, T (2008) *Terry’s Top Tips for Watercolour Artists* (Tunbridge Wells: Search Press)

Trevena, S (2004) *Taking Risks with Watercolour* (London: Collins)

<http://www.getty.edu/education/> <http://www.artjunction.org/>

<http://www.nsead.org/home/index.aspx> <http://www.watercolorpainting.com/>

<http://www.artmovements.co.uk/home.htm> <http://www.tate.org.uk/>