

Keiko Tanabe Workshop curriculum (indoors/outdoors)

Theme: Watercolor: Keep It Simple and Strong

RECOMMENDED EXPERIENCE:

All levels (basic knowledge & some previous experiences strongly recommended to benefit from this workshop)

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR

Keiko Tanabe is an award winning artist and a signature member of the National Watercolor Society. Often working en plein air, her atmospheric watercolors perfectly capture a sense of time and place. Through her use of color, textures, and signature brushwork, Keiko's landscapes and cityscapes, beautifully convey both the exotic and the simple scenes of the many places she travels. Never attending art school, Keiko took only one drawing class to learn basic technical skills in 2004 before she started painting.

One year later, after learning basic drawing and watercolor painting skills at a local community school in San Diego, Keiko decided to paint full-time. From then on, she intensely taught herself to be fluent in watercolor painting, just as one would do to master a foreign language. Her subjects include landscape, cityscape, waterscape and interior scenes, which will be demonstrated in the workshop, using representational and impressionistic compositions. Since 2011, Keiko has completed successfully more than 100 workshops and numerous live demonstrations around the world.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop is designed for those who would like to gain a better understanding of methods and techniques to make a watercolor painting that is simple yet strong. The goal is to capture the essence of the subject that conveys a certain mood and atmosphere. The process of simplification begins with visualization. In representational art, this ability to see the end result of a painting, through the mind's eye, is instrumental in realizing an artist's vision. The ability to do so and quickly is especially useful when painting en plein air. Through various exercises and step-by-step demonstrations, Keiko will show you how to take the initial inspiration, through the simplification process, to an expressive painting that is strong in composition and content.

Subject matters include landscape, cityscape, waterscape and interior, which will be demonstrated in a manner that is more representational and impressionistic rather than abstract.

The introduction focuses on the fundamentals including getting to know our materials and seeing things with an artist's eye. The areas of topic covered in this workshop include: the importance of

tonal value studies, how to do a preliminary drawing, how to edit a complex subject, what makes a good design, understanding of relationship of tonal values and colors, and a variety of techniques in paint application and brush handling.

We will paint different subject(s) every day, en plein-air weather permitting (for an outdoor workshop). Each day there will be a small exercise which will then be applied to a painting later in the day.

Keiko will do two demonstrations a day. There will be plenty of one-on-one guidance and a question-and-answer session on a daily basis. A class critique will be conducted at the end of each day. An amount of time spent indoors and outdoors will be determined by the organizer and the instructor.

Material List (suggested): available on request

4-day Course Description:

Day 1 – AM: Introduction. First demo (studio; emphasis on basic techniques and tonal values). Students paint from the same reference. Individual guidance will follow. Lunch. PM: Second demo (studio or plein air, weather permitting). Students do a quick value sketch of their subject and work from it to make a painting, which is followed by one-on-one instruction.

Day 2 – AM: Review of Day 1. First demo (studio; emphasis on perspective). Students paint from my demo with my individual guidance. Lunch. PM: Second demo (studio or plein-air, weather permitting). Students paint from nature. One-on-one instruction and group critique.

Day 3 – AM: Review of Day 2. First demo (studio or plein-air, weather permitting; emphasis on color choices). Students paint from the photo reference or from nature. Lunch. PM: Second demo (studio). In case of bad weather, we work indoors and discuss how to utilize photo reference and learn further about the importance of design. Group critique at the end.

Day 4 – AM: Review of Day 3. First demo (studio or plein-air, weather permitting; emphasis on atmosphere). Students paint from the same reference or from nature. I visit each for individual instruction and questions. Lunch. PM: second demo (studio or plein-air; emphasis on edges and atmosphere). Group viewing and critique session at the end of day.

(updated 1/1/2015)