

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Summer 2021

Outdoor Painting Marathon: Subtleties of Color and Light

Instructor: Ilse Sørensen Murdock
Class Hours: 9am - 1pm ; 2pm - 6pm
Dates: Monday, June 21- Friday, July 2, 2021 (class meets daily, excluding weekends)
Contact Info: see Program Office

Course Description

Observable color is most vibrantly seen through natural light, outdoors. With that in mind, we will take a deep dive into color painting over this two-week intensive, which will include regular outdoor painting sessions in local parks and areas accessible to the Studio School on foot and via public transportation. Locations will become “spots” that we get to know with greater nuance and thus craft more knowingly and with greater freedom as palette repertoires expand through practice and experiment. The outdoor situation adds a dynamic of chance, where the drama of shifting light ignites color relationships. These moments of visual inspiration will be backdrops for further research and development. In addition to the relational aspect of color, students will realize an intuitive color sense that they can build on for future projects. Students will work primarily in acrylic and oil paint; however there will be work sessions to utilize discoveries as a launch pad for all mediums including sculpture and beyond. Through assigned palettes and color studies the eye is tuned to more directly see the unlimited possibilities within the relational sphere.

Course Outline

Students can expect to be outdoors at least half day for most days of the Marathon, weather permitting. Class sessions will also be held at the School for critiques, workshop discoveries and to store supplies. The Marathon will progress from seemingly simple color approaches; like limited palettes, tone clustering, space and color temperature, form and color temperature, light and color temperature, complimentary colors, color harmony and discordant color, color intensity and color saturation, transparency and opacity, and working with colored grounds. We will also work with several focal points; like light at specific times of day, optical mixing, and color composition. Indoor work sessions will include experimentation with the observed canvases, and parsing out color exercises to bring precision to one’s vision. Students will be encouraged to define their source material for color inspiration, identifying areas ripe for expansion. We will draw resources from painters across the ages, including contemporary artists working with color, the American abstract color field painters, and French painters of light. The objective is that each student gathers depth and range of observation and language, a rich resource to pull from towards development of a personal language.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of many diverse properties of color, using abstract color studies and observational painting to build this awareness. They will gain practical experience with outdoor painting seen through park settings and urban architecture. Students will begin to be able to describe their primary interests in color in terms of application and will amass a body of new paintings and/or artworks representing their particular search in the area of color as an artist.

Assessable Tasks

Students must show up on time to all class hours, whether indoor or meeting at an outdoor location. Students should initially be prepared to develop their work both through the assigned palettes and then through individual work sessions where they are prompted to develop their own ideas as they arise. Students are expected to

participate in all aspects of class in a manner appropriate to the group dynamic and including participating in critiques.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading applies to NYSS MFA participants and is on a high pass, pass, low performance, fail basis. It is expected that students enrolled are committed to rigorous involvement and taking risks. Failure in art-making is inevitable, however continual “showing up” is how one’s failures might be used for edification. For NYSS MFA candidates to achieve a pass grade, students must attend all class hours or make up the content equivalent; fulfill all assignments to at least satisfactory level; show a commitment and willingness to explore class material covered; make an effort to participate in group discussions and critiques.

Materials and Supplies

It is suggested students be prepared with the following basic materials while remaining open to adding other materials that might serve exploration within a personal direction.

- Portable French easel, or other set up for outdoor painting
- A portable pallet, preferably wooden and not disposable
- Gamsol or odorless turpenoid
- Stand oil or poppy oil
- Small pallet tins or jars for medium
- Pallet knife
- Cloth rags and paper towels
- Hat, sunscreen, baggie for trash, water for hydration
- A sturdy bag, like a large canvas tote or backpack to carry supplies
- (optional: stool, wheeled carrier, umbrella)
- Sketchbook and drawing paper, duct tape, blue tape, scissors
- Brushes: rounds and brights of many sizes, including several large brushes

Surfaces:

Please have available approx 20-30 surfaces, a range of sizes and types is OK

Here is a suggestion of size range and amounts:

- 10 small surfaces, approx 9” x 12”
- 8 small surfaces, approx 14” x 18”
- 8 medium canvases, approx 18” x 24” – 28” x 34”
- 2-3 large canvases approx 4’ x 5’ or 5’ x 6’

Basic oil paint palette:

- Titanium White
- Cadmium Lemon
- Cadmium Yellows (light, medium and deep)
- Cadmium Reds (light, medium and deep)
- Cadmium Orange
- Alizarin Crimson
- Magenta and/or Rose
- Dioxazine Violet
- Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue
- Cerulean Blue
- Prussian Blue
- Paynes Grey
- Cadmium Green
- Pthalo Green
- Viridian Green
- Black

Acrylic pallet (Golden or other quality paint for grounds and color studies):

- Titanium White
- Cadmium Lemon
- Cadmium Yellow Medium
- Cadmium Red Medium
- Alizarin
- Dioxazine Violet
- Ultramarine Blue
- Cerulean Blue
- Viridian

School, Department & Class Policies

Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook and on the School's homepage nyss.org with regards to Covid protocols and entry procedures. Students are expected to be on time and to attend all classes. Classes missed due to Covid related precautions will be excused.