

Watercolour World with Miriam Ruberl

4th Thursday each month starting February 28th

Before the invention of colour photography, watercolours in little blocks of naturally occurring hand-ground minerals in paintboxes were taken by artists into the field to “note” the colours they saw, as guides in their oil painting rendition of the “actual” work. Constable used incredibly tiny notebooks for the purpose.

Watercolours have matured into fully fledged artists’ materials, available in pans and later tubes, dry pigments, pencils, blocks, inks, gouaches, Chinese pigments, and more. Many available pigments are synthetic or “manufactured”, with attendant consequences. The key element all have in common is water as their “spreading”, or revealing, agent.

The other element they have in common is the range of papers traditionally used to support the pigments, and this too has expanded with modern artists to include canvasses and clothes of various types. Add to this the many brushes, mediums and “effects” available both commercially and in everyday household goods, as well as less commonly used materials such as metallic pigments and metallic leaf, even shellacs and other varnishes, and the possibilities are literally only limited by our imaginations – and preconceptions.

These 10 sessions will visit every conceivable aspect of watercolours in their many available forms known to the tutor. Most of our session time will be spent **doing**, the “theory” (eg colour theory, colour mixing, washes, perspective, paper stretching, the various ideas of cultures as to the elements of art and beauty, mark making etc) and traditions will be visited when relevant. While each session will have a focus, which will grow out of the previous session (details of which will be published in the monthly newsletter), the series is designed to develop your skills and techniques over time and build on each other, providing you with a certificate of completion, and the knowledge that you have fully explored watercolour mediums and know how to handle them, may be even choose to teach others!

Subjects and objects used to explore and learn techniques and use of the mediums eg skies, clouds, rain, sun, moon, stars, mist, water, droplets, rocks, sands, trees, plants, flowers, animals, people, skin tones, buildings, machinery, rust, mould, fence lines, glass, reflections, clothing, etc, will be included based entirely on the interests of group members. If no one wants to learn about depth / perspective, we will not!!

Everybody can truly experience the deep satisfactions and joys of being wizards and alchemists when painting with coloured pigments and water. The secret is to devote regular time to systematically unravelling their gifts, along with some “what if’s” a lot of “how did I do that??!” and structured practise, as well as benefit from the varied, individual responses of each group member, greatly expanding your own possibilities and repertoire in the process with huge learning time savings. My aim is to convey the never-ending excitement and versatility of watercolours, and enhance the confidence and joy with which you engage with them to materialise the art your heart calls you to make.

Beginners and seasoned painters are equally welcome and catered for – the journey is endless in its possibilities!

Materials: lists will be supplied session by session. For the first session, bring everything you have on hand. I will bring a supply of essentials, some on loan and some available for purchase, for new people.

Group size: 10 maximum

Dates: 4th Thursday each month starting February 28th

28 Feb, 28 March, 25 April, 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 September, 24 October, 28 November

Time: 1-4pm

Session costs:

Single session \$45 payable to Tauranga Arts Society 1 week before session date

10 sessions \$400, payable by 20 February.

PLUS: priority booking option and favourable costing for participants for Passionate Pursuits
Ohope Residential Painting Trip : 15-17 October 2019 inclusive

Miriam Ruberl, experimental artist