**ASPT 1300: Introduction to Painting**

**SMU-in-Taos 2018 Instructor Jane Starks**

This course is carefully designed to give the beginning student a concise -and portable - foundation in painting, and the confidence to take further fine arts classes. The course content includes highly structured, carefully sequenced exercises designed to help you focus on one or two components of painting at a time. Throughout this course the emphasis will be on retinal painting and the cultivation of visual discernment, spontaneity, decisiveness, and tempo. You will learn the vocabulary of color - value, hue, and saturation - and become fluent in paint-mixing and paint application resulting in a nuanced and balanced interaction of color and tone.

You will also learn how to integrate drawing with painting. You learn to depict meaningful form through value and shape, rather than line alone. You will be introduced to perspective, scale, and the concept of negative and positive space. Subject matter includes still life, landscape, works from imagination, as well as topics of interest to be determined by you. The class will focus on how to apply the language of color to the depiction of shadows, reflections, halation (backlight), and transparency to sharpen your skills of observation and analysis.

The course will be taught in gouache ("gwash"), a water-based medium. Gouache is an ideal learning medium. Unusually supple, it allows a gestural, more 'loose' approach to painting. It combines watercolor and oil techniques. The forgiving qualities of gouache allow the kind of problem solving that develops focused thinking and experimentation - skills which are the foundation of originality in art. We will also use charcoal with gesso, and collage.

And finally, trips to museums, archeological sites, pueblos, and other destinations will be your gateway to the complex cultural and physical landscape of northern New Mexico.

1st week: students are introduced to:

first principles of color

beginning color studies

applying color principles

beginning drawing

use of sighting stick

painting from still life

painting from plein air

2nd week: students must complete the following list of paintings/collage (some can be studio-based).

1 nocturne

1 sunset/sunrise plein air

1 silhouette

1 shadow

1 stream reflection

1 cloud study

oral presentation on artist or artistic tradition indigenous to the Southwest.

Students must also maintain a visual journal, rich in images, not text (google Charlotte Salomon for one example.

Three field trips: Museum Hill, Santa Fe; Harwood and Millicent Rogers museums, Taos; Mesa Prieta petroglyph site, near Espanola.

Reading: Color: a Workshop for Artists and Designers, by David Hornung, Lawrence King, second edition, 2012

Student assessment: 10% oral presentation and verbal participation in critiques

20% visual journal

70% assigned exercises

Supplies will be provided with lab fee.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Creativity and Aesthetics

1 Students will identify and/or employ methods, techniques, or languages of a particular art form and describe how these inform the creation, performance or analysis of that form.

2 Students will demonstrate an understanding of concepts fundamental to creativity through explanation and analysis.

Oral Communication

1 Students will select, organize and use appropriate evidence or information to suit a specific or targeted audience.

2 Students will use appropriate vocal and visual cues to deliver a presentation to a specific or targeted audience.