Syllabus

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 students 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. Students 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.

Students will also learn how to integrate drawing with painting. They are asked to depict meaningful form through value and shape, rather than line alone. They will be introduced to perspective, scale, and the concept of negative and positive space. Subject matter includes still life, landscape, works from imagination, and any topics or subjects identified by students. The class will focus on how to apply the language of color to the depiction of shadows, reflections, halation (backlight), and transparency to sharpen 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 students' gateway to the complex cultural and physical landscape of northern New Mexico.

CURRICULUM:

Studio exercises

1. gray scale
2. saturation scale
3. hue/value/chroma chart
4. a Manet’s Last Flowers painting translated into shape
5. a Lee Friedlander “Stems” black and white photo translated into color
6. glazing sampler
7. Drawing exercises using sighting sticks in order to utilize perspective: ellipse, ‘tower of books’

Required content: Media:

nocturne drawing
sunset/sunrise plein air gouache
reflected image in mirror collage
stream plein air
1 cloud study plein air

Field trips: Meow Wolf, Museum Hill, Santa Fe; Harwood and Millicent Rogers museums, Taos; Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Preserve; Picuris Pueblo; Taos Pueblo; Colorado Gators, Great Sand Dunes NP; studio visit with Mary Shaffer, glass sculptor, Taos

Student assessment: 10% oral presentation and verbal participation in critiques 80% assigned exercises

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

UC2012: Pillars/Creativity & Aesthetics (Level 1) - Approved by CUC 9/4/13 (Effective Spring 2016)

Effective Fall 2016
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.

UC2012 and UC2016: Proficiencies & Experiences/Oral Communications - Approved by CUC 9/4/13 (Effective Spring 2014)

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.