

Course Abstraction in Plein Air Painting
Date: Saturday, June 10th, 10 am - 4 pm
Course Number JRAPAP
Instructor Jerry Ross
Duration: 6 hours Cost: \$95
Interest/registration: Email to pittore44@yahoo.com to express interest.
Location: Web Frameworks 411 W 4th (behind REI)
Information: 541-343-5651



Course Description

This course covers strategies and techniques of introducing abstraction into plein air. The creation of successful abstract plein air depends upon a strong grounding in the approach to and techniques of abstraction. The concept of “macchia” from Italian impressionism will be discussed. Techniques of calligraphic expressive brushwork and abstraction from gesture will be covered as well as how to create a strong macchia structure through both traditional and contemporary compositional strategies.

Learning Outcome

Students will create strong gestural sketches. Students will be able to quickly create abstract plein air thumbnail compositions. Students can create larger plein air paintings from the thumbnails. Macchia patterns will be strengthened by rotating the canvas and use of the methods of editing and re-evaluation of abstract shape juxtapositions. Students will be able to explain and utilize the principle of abstraction. Students will be able to create textures with brush and palette knife.

Note: Instruction will be in oils and watercolor but students can use any medium they prefer.



Course Content

1. The Principle of Abstraction (simplification of reality, suppressing details)
2. Approaches to abstraction
3. Gestural sketching with the largest brush
4. Creating calligraphic, expressive, and staccato brushwork and use of the knife
5. Techniques for strengthening a macchia pattern
6. Abstraction in Plein Air – Best Examples
7. Moving beyond commercial and popular clichés used in plein air

