

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.



Siena, Italy by Jerry Ross, 2014



near Dillard

Course Content

1. The Principle of Abstraction (simplification of reality, suppressing details)
2. Basic Composition for Abstraction in Plein Air
3. Expressive Brushwork
4. Macchia/Notan
5. Working with Edges in Abstraction
6. General to Specific, Thick over Thin, Simplification of Forms
7. Principles of Far and Near Focus
8. Principle of the Aesthetic Field and Use of Paper/Canvas and Paint Textures
9. Principles of Push and Pull in Abstraction
10. Exploratory scribbling and Use of the Line Macchia
11. Principle of Point, Mass, and Line
12. Principles of Baseline and Contours in Plein Air Abstraction
13. Review of Good Examples

