
Advancing with Watercolor

Autumn 2017

Trees



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Welcome to my Advancing with Watercolor class. It may sound like this is a class for advanced painters but really it's a class for all levels. I call it advancing because we are moving forward each day we practice, and I hope you will practice a lot!! I appreciate your being here and making a commitment to this class. I respect the fact that you are making an investment of your time and money to be here and will do my best to impart to you what I have learned over the years in this wonderful media of watercolor. I hope that you will be comfortable and at ease in this class. I try hard to make it a respectful environment as well as a fun one.

I would like to send you notes and other info regarding the class so please provide me with your e-mail. *I strongly recommend that you subscribe to my blog at www.garytuckerartist.com/blog as I often post tutorials on working with a variety of watercolor techniques.* I have recently produced short videos which allow you to watch the process of building up the watercolor. It would help me if you would "like" these videos by clicking on the thumbs up icon under the video. You can also subscribe to my channel or like them through facebook. All of this helps me to promote my work. You can reach me at gary.john.tucker@gmail.com

The class structure is pretty simple. I will start with a short talk or demo focusing on the subject for the particular week, answer any questions that may come up and then we will paint together. I will provide an image or other subject matter for us to work on during class. We will have a weekly critique to look at work we have done in between classes , point out strengths and our weakness, and just talk about the process of watercolor painting together.

The most important part of this 8 week session is what you do between classes.

I have created a homework assignment for each week to stimulate your imagination and it is my hope you will carve out time between classes to do some painting. I can *guarantee* that you will learn and progress much faster this way, also, you will come to enjoy painting with watercolors more and more each week. If you have a personal project you

would like to work on that is fine too. You can use the critique to receive feed back on your project and develop your paintings with guidance.

Here is a basic outline of the class - The theme this term is "Trees"

We will look at the character that certain trees and their environment present and use the motifs to exercise different techniques with watercolor. You can use the image which I have used or even better one that you may have and have always wanted to paint.

Week 1

Getting started, The Big Picture and center of interest

Watercolor technique gradient washes

Homework "Dawn trees"

Week 2

Building the picture Identifying the Big Shape

Extending the use of gradient washes - also working with dry technique

Homework "Maple stone fence"

Week 3

Building the picture: Improving the Big Shape

Technique: Working with wet into wet and drybrush

Homework "White Pine"

Week 4

Building the Picture: Repeating line and shape

Watercolor Technique: Getting dark rich washes dry into wet

Homework "birch"

Week 5

Building the Picture: Tonal Values

Technique: Working with washes - in layers taking advantage of the transparency of watercolor

Homework - 2 paintings - one a monotone (single color) the second a colored version of the same image "willow"

Week 6

Building the Picture: The Big Mid Value

Technique lost and found edges

Homework "oak"

Week 7

Building the Picture: Value Patterns

Technique: Using dry brush and dry into wet

Homework "Cottonwood and river"

Week 8

Building the Picture: Expression

Technique: developing a sketch along the lines of interpretation Winter Tree