

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D08105 PAINTING STILL LIFE – TOWARDS ABSTRACTION

Tutor: NICK BODIMEADE

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is about going beyond representation to develop personal expression, responding directly to still life through drawing, collage and painting exploring line, form, colour and surface. Through a series of exercises you will get to 'know' the objects and develop the confidence to strip away the superfluous and capture the essence. The aim is to produce a number of studies, culminating in a group of paintings, displaying your own expressive interpretation of the subject. Acrylics are preferred due to their fast drying qualities, but if you wish to use oils you must use Zest or another low odour thinner (not turpentine).

Each day will start with a slide show of relevant contemporary and historical artists and end with a review of the day's activities.

Day 1

We will construct a still-life and through exercises explore the objects, their qualities and spatial relationships, plus the negative spaces they create. You will be expected and encouraged to take risks, make unplanned studies, try new methods of making marks, explore different media and to generally free up. You begin with studies in line as an analytical tool and a medium of expression. To create an exciting environment you will be asked to display your work – there will be discussions and evaluation at key points.

Day 2

You will explore form using collage to force a simplification of shapes and investigate the evocative and expressive qualities of colour. The importance of composition and developing an understanding of the role of the picture plane are an important focus for the day.

Using the studies made you then begin to abstract from the subject by editing, simplifying, cutting up, drawing from, etc, which will start to form the basis for your paintings.

Day 3

With your studies as a starting point you will continue the process of abstraction exploring the material and handling properties of paint, only using the actual still-life for occasional reference if at all. The work will progress with the help of comparative critical judgements made possible by working in series. Individual support and evaluation provided at key points.

Day 4

You will spend the day working on your increasingly resolved series of paintings. Again I shall give individual support with evaluations and discussions at key points.

Day 5

We will consolidate and resolve everyone's paintings in the morning, adding the final touches after lunch. This will leave time for each student to put up a display their work followed by a group appraisal and feedback.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Nick trained at Worthing and Wolverhampton art colleges, has taught at many UK schools, colleges and universities at all levels up to MA. He exhibits with St Annes Galleries, Lewes. Zimmer Stewart Gallery, Arundel and the Porthminster Gallery, St Ives. Nick's work is held in many public and private collections including, The Contemporary Art Society, The Landmark Trust and the Government Art Collection. He is a Trustee of Fabrica, Brighton's leading Contemporary Art Gallery.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 2 September

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. After introductions, we will work on some mark making exercises to limber up and get in the creative mood.

Other days: Monday 3 to Thursday 6 September

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – workshops are available until 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Friday 7 September

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am.)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION;

To make the still-life more personal I would like each student to bring a special object(s), something which has qualities you particularly like, or which evokes memories or maybe resonates in some way, and which could be included in the course still-life – nothing too precious or valuable!

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am– 2pm.
For any materials you need from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

Heavy weight paper [370gsm] provided by the tutor, and perishable elements for the still lives.

Available from the Shop:

Acrylic gesso	Acrylic paints (primaries plus black & white)
Masking Tape	Sponge rollers
PVA glue	Sponges
Palette knives/trowels	Canvas (stretched) or boards
Palettes	Graphite
Brushes – good range	Scissors
Charcoal	Craft Knife
Medium/heavy weight papers	

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Any other colours of paints, other media such as inks, pastels, crayons, varnishes and mediums etc, which you may like to use
Oil paints and low odour thinners if this is your preferred medium
Interesting paper and card, etc for creating collage
Painting shirt or overalls

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

Please Note: Traffic may be heavier than usual, with some road diversions in the immediate vicinity, due to the Revival Meeting – the motor racing event taking place **September 7–9** at the nearby Goodwood Estate.