2027 SPRING
FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

Learn and develop with us!



The Foundations Program is a series of 8 classes, taught by 8 different instructors, each focusing on 8 different foundational concepts of visual art. These classes provide a high-level overview of what every artist should know so you can review your own skill set, understand where you are within your personal practice, and be able to see where there is room for improvement.

8-Week Online Program
Thursday Evenings

March 25th - May 13th | 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom
Cost: $490 for Members | $540 for Non-Members
All sessions are recorded!

For More Information:
https://federationacademy.ca/evening-program
Or Call The Office At: 604-681-8534

HOW TO REGISTER

Visit federationacademy.ca
Or phone 604-681-8534
Or Scan below

SESSION 1: THE ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

by Maria Josenhans, SFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Mar 25th 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
The focus will be on the design tools we use to make art, including line, shape, form, colour, texture, space and tonal value. Students will assess artwork by others, explore a specific art experience for each design word using paint on different surfaces, and then assess photographs of their own artwork. The activity of focusing on each word will give a clear and visual understanding.

Objective(s):
- Understand terminology for the elements of design, and apply design in the artistic process
- Start to build your foundational "tool box"



Instructor's Biography

A passionate landscape painter, Maria Josenhans creates oil paintings both outdoors on location and in her North Vancouver studio. As an artist for four decades, her career has been shaped by long periods of immersion in large format photography, working as an illustrator, training and competing in Highland dance, teaching, and travelling the world by bicycle. Maria holds a BFA (with Honours) from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, is an Associate member of the Oil Painters of America, and SFCA. Her work is represented through galleries in Victoria, BC and Toronto, ON.

SESSION 2: THE PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

by Lalita Hamill, AFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Apr 1st 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
Few beginning artists use the principles of design, such as pattern, contrast, balance and rhythm, to their full advantage. In this informative class, the instructor will provide examples of artists who structured the compositions of their paintings in ways that bring the viewer's attention to the most important elements of the painting by encoding their work with a series of deliberate or intuited visual messages.

Objective(s):
- Understand how the principles of design apply to bring a painting's elements together to form a coherent whole
- Practice your assessment skills with respect to the principles of composition



Instructor's Biography

Lalita Hamill is a professional fine artist living in Langley, BC, Canada. She discovered her artistic abilities as a young adult during the final year of her Philosophy degree at the University of Victoria. Subsequent years of drawing led to four years of study at the Vancouver Academy of Art, where she received instruction by classically trained painters. With over thirty years teaching experience, Lalita is a well respected teacher, mentor, and art assessor. On account of the success of her contemporary atelier program, Lalita was asked to design the Foundations Program for the Federation of Canadian Artists.

SESSION 3: TONAL VALUES

by Dominique Walker, SFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Apr 8th 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
An exploration of the role of tone & tonal variations in the perception of space, movement, line, shape, form, colour and texture. Tone is the vital information a painter requires to achieve compositions which move seamlessly, contain visual and emotional impact and impart meaning to a viewer. Theoretical and practical information to explore & use Tone as the framework that underpins composition.

Objective(s):
- Explore strategies for seeing and rendering light, mid-tone and dark values
- To be sufficiently inspired and aware of tone control, and have a few tools and tips to make things look tonally right.
- Understanding 'shape, then tone, then colour' as a guiding principle for making great paintings

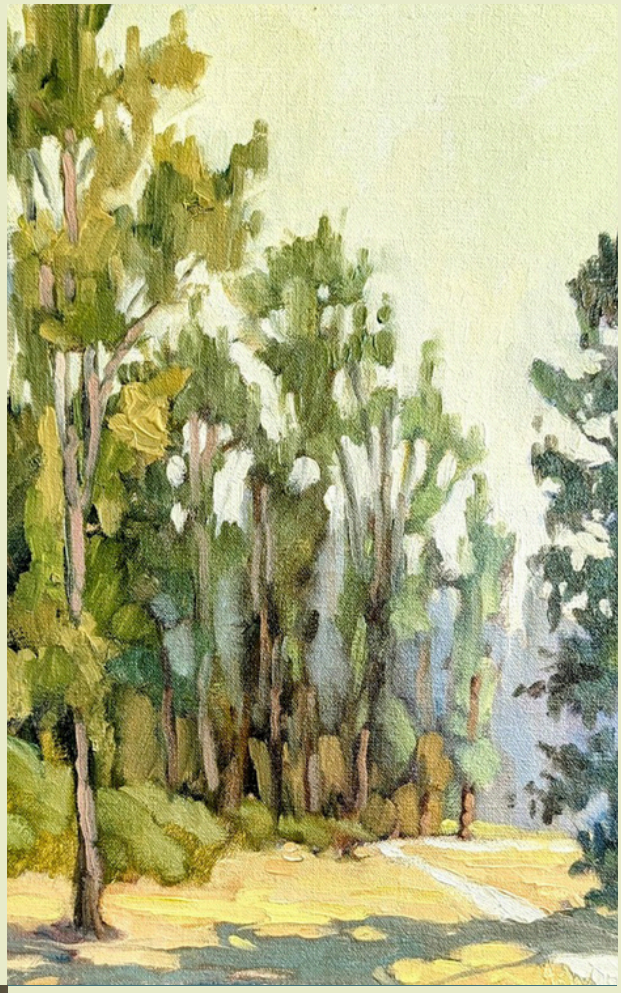


Instructor's Biography

Dominique currently teaches in the IDEA School of Design at Capilano University. She received her art education both through the Capilano program she now teaches at as well as through her family upbringing; She is the fourth generation of a family of female landscape painters known as the Everard Group, who's work can be found in private collections worldwide and the national galleries of South Africa. Dominique has been painting professionally since 2015. She has her SFCA designation with the Federation of Canadian artists.

SESSION 4 : BRUSHWORK

by Ann Willsie, SFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Apr 15th 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
Instead of 'mucking about' in a trial-and-error manner, join us and learn the key skills and techniques needed to develop effective, confident, expressive brushwork. Students will understand the importance of mark-making (brushwork), morphology (the understanding of shapes) and rheology (a science and understanding of the flow of plastic materials). Topics will include: tools, mediums, body awareness, pressure, blending, consistency, direction, and edges.

Objective(s):
- To explore mark-making and gain confidence in their ability to apply paint with the appropriate tools, consistency, pressure, thickness of paint, direction of stroke, and expression

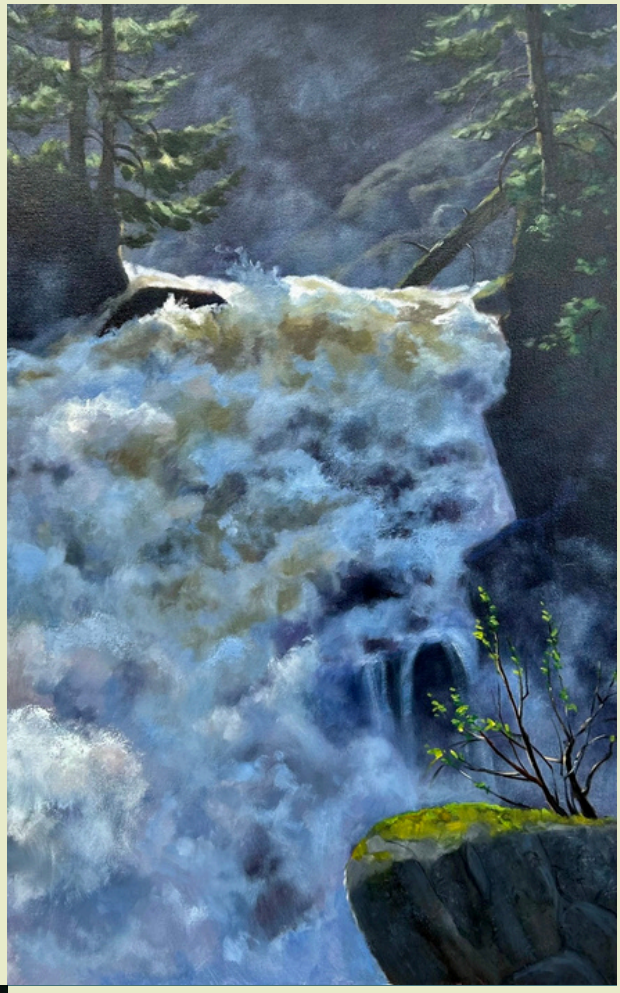


Instructor's Biography

Ann Willsie is known for her large-scale panoramic landscapes, florals and rural scenes of Canada. Bold, visible brushstrokes and thick, luscious oil paint are characteristic of her paintings, which have been described as contemporary impressionism. Gnarly old trees with their own linear personalities, grasses shifting in the wind, hidden marshes, – these are some of the subject matters which have inspired Ann's landscapes.
Her work is shown in galleries across Canada and held in collections around the world. She is a Senior member of the Federation of Canadian Artists and an Associate Member of the Oil Painters of America.

SESSION 5: COLOUR THEORY AND MIXING

by Gaye Adams, SFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Apr 22nd 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
Confusion often reigns supreme when it comes to colour mixing; however, the essentials are clear and concise. First one trains their eye to see colour accurately, and secondly one learns the principles of subtractive color mixing and practices them. Students will learn not only how to mix the right colour, they will also learn how to get the intensity and tonality correct, which is absolutely necessary in order to make the light in a painting convincing and compelling. Students will be empowered to arrive at the mixtures they intend, instead of settling for something less.

Objective(s):
- Develop an approach for seeing and then mixing accurately the colors observed



Instructor's Biography

Gaye Adams has been painting professionally and instructing painting for over 30 years. She is passionate about painting the effects of light in a representational fashion, and the challenge of creating the illusion of light and its many presentations in the landscape and elsewhere keeps her returning to the easel. She is a believer in putting first things first when it comes to teaching students to develop their painting skills, starting with a strong foundation of basics in all aspects of art making. Gaye is an award winning painter and shows her work locally, nationally and internationally She teaches in Canada, the United States and abroad.

SESSION 6: BACKGROUNDS, LAYERING AND GLAZING

by Kit Bell, AFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Apr 29th 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
Backgrounds can be tricky for many artists. Knowing what to take out can be as important as knowing what to leave in. Some backgrounds are simply abstract shapes, while others are subtle gradations of tonal value or colour. Those who attend this class will explore a variety of background treatments and will assess artwork while learning ways to integrate all aspects of the painting.

Objective(s):
- Understand how backgrounds are integral to the composition
- Experience how layers and glazes are applied and understand when and how to use them

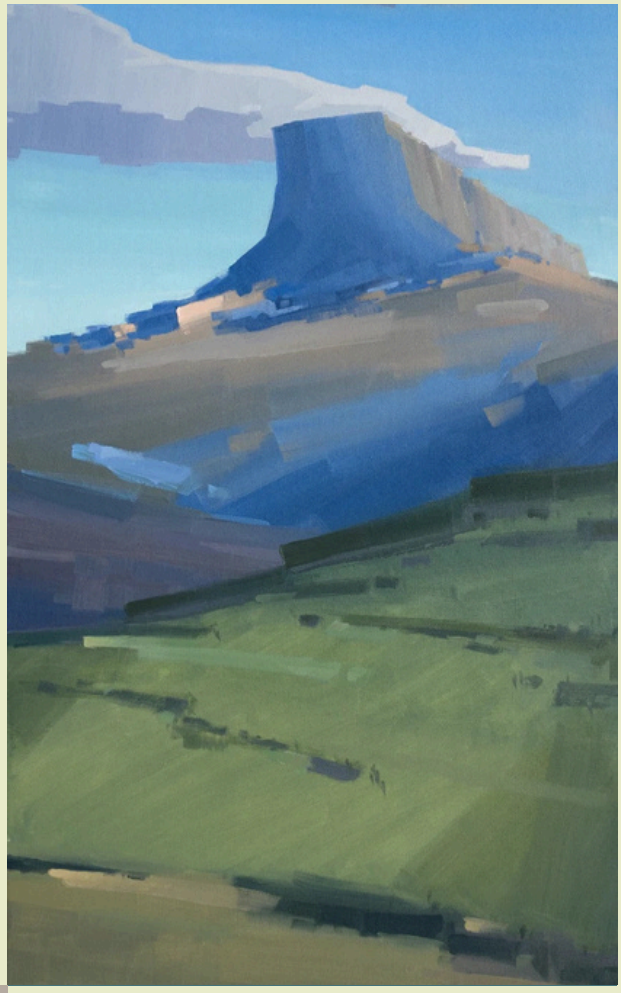


Instructor's Biography

Kit Bell, a native of Vancouver, BC, has always had a passion for art, even as her initial career led her into the world of computers following her graduating from the UBC with a Bachelor of Science in 1974. In 1989, Kit seized the chance to shift gears, studying at the Ottawa School of Art and exhibiting her work in galleries and shows in Ottawa. Kit returned to painting in 2007 and hasn't looked back. A versatile artist, she continuously refines her technique and artistic vision while delving into various media.
A prominent figure in the artistic community, Kit serves as a frequent instructor for the FCA providing critiques, mentorship, and workshops. When external factors such as the pandemic necessitated a shift to online teaching, Kit adeptly leveraged her computer skills to reach a broader and more diverse audience.

SESSION 7: VISUAL REFERENCE SOURCES

by Michael King



Online class:
Date: Thursday, Mar 6th 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
This class explores the many ways photographic reference and direct observation can be translated into compelling painted images. Guided comparisons of photo-based and life-based approaches will be presented and discussed, highlighting the distinct benefits and challenges of each. Students will learn how to use photographs as a flexible tool rather than a copying device, as we discuss how this approach differs from painting directly from life. Demonstrations will show participants how to apply traditional painting techniques with an emphasis on working from general to specific, colour mixing, and personal expression."

Objective(s):
- Effective use & interpretation of 2-D and 3D visual aids
- Understand importance of following copyright law



Instructor's Biography

Having acquired a formal education in Industrial Design from Carleton University in Ottawa, King's professional journey in product design has significantly shaped his perspective on fine art. He prioritizes a thorough understanding of the technical facets of painting, creating muscle memory that allows the educated subconscious to assume control, simplifying the painting process.
As an avid instructor, his workshops impart painting and design concepts in a clear and approachable manner. His philosophy is rooted in the scientific fundamentals of perception and observation, coupled with time-tested art principles.

SESSION 8: INSPIRATION, CREATIVITY, NARRATIVE, EXPRESSION

by Leanne Christie, SFCA



Online class:
Date: Thursday, May 13th 2027, 6:00pm - 8:30pm (PCT)
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:
We will work through and set in place an effective process that Leanne has used in her own practice to understand your desires, ambitions, inspirations and story and we will build a pathway from inspiration to creativity to expression and into the narrative.
This final week assumes your understanding and relies on your practice of the the skills that you have learnt in the previous weeks.

Objective(s):
- Have a concrete process in place that will help the artist on their life long journey to understand why they paint, what moves them, what they want to achieve and to break down how they will translate this into their chosen medium and then measure the results.



Instructor's Biography

Urban Oil painter Leanne M Christie has a reputation for complex paintings that are built with powerful brushwork and the sophisticated manipulation of her medium. Christie's concept of complexity through the inclusion of active and passive time as a catalytic element in the paintings; finds the perfect partner in her urban subjects, which are naturally founded on the complex relationships of the urban citizen and urban politics. Born and raised in South Africa, Christie moved to the Canadian West Coast in the late 2000's after a period of 10 years abroad that had originated as a 2 week holiday after the completion of her Bachelor of Fine Art from Rhodes University, Makhanda in the Eastern Cape.