

# Visual Art League of Lewisville

## **Dynamic and Direct Painting – Alla Prima Approach**

**Instructor:** Robin Cheers

**Date:** June 19-21, 2025

**Time:** 9 am - 4 pm, with 1 hour lunch break

**Price:** VAL Members: \$450, Non-VAL Members: \$475

**Location:** Lewisville Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles Street, Lewisville TX 75057

**Max.** 12 students (minimum 5)

*Break free from rendering details to create painterly paintings full of light and color. Learn to quickly capture your first impression with an alla prima approach to organizing your painting and working wet on wet. Trust the power of suggestion to simplify and make more expressive, dynamic paintings.*

This three-day workshop with Robin Cheers is designed for students of all skill levels. Robin will do a short presentation and demo each day and then spend the remainder working with students ***individually at their level.***

### **LEARN TO:**

- compose rather than copy reference materials
- use notan design to simplify the light and dark shapes
- create strong focal areas
- simplify busy areas with the power of suggestion
- use different tools for mark making
- work alla prima and trust your first impression

You will learn to quickly capture your first impression by seeing and painting simple shapes and value relationships. Starting with a strong foundation based on big shapes frees you up to explore color, edges, and brushwork.

Students will use oil (acrylic/other mediums welcome) to paint from photo reference. They will have a choice of many of Robin's own photographs or may bring their own.

### **SUPPLIES:**

In this workshop, I will be focusing on figurative, cityscape and boat scenes to demonstrate strong light/shadow contrast, busy and lively scenes and color harmony/key choices in composing paintings. Students are welcome to work from my reference photos or bring their own to fit these ideas.

**Colors:**

Students can use their usual palette with at least the following colors. But use any colors that inspire!

Cadmium Red Light or Naphthol Red\*

Permanent Alizarin Crimson

Cad, Hansa\* or Winsor Yellow

Permanent Orange\*

Ultramarine Blue

Manganese Violet

Kings Blue

Pthalo, Viridian or Winsor Green

And Titanium White

**Tools/Brushes:**

Variety of long handled brushes #4 - #10 (filbert, round, egbert etc)

- Hog Bristle: will lay down lots of paint, take some abuse, and leave visible stroke marks.
- Synthetic or Sable/Mongoose: used for glazing, fine details and smooth soft strokes (better for acrylics).

Chip brushes 1-2"

Small to medium size spatula palette knife

Scraping tools – e.g. Princeton Catalyst wedges, plastic cards, bowl scraper, color scrapers, putty knife

Viva or Job Squad paper towels

**Surfaces:**

Gesso panels or canvas pad or stretched canvas, oil/acrylic paper, or heavy watercolor paper – 11x14 or so – plan at least to paint one painting each day

**Mediums:**

Gamblin Solvent Free Gel\* or linseed or walnut/alkyd, cold wax

Gamsol or Turpenoid OMS

**Sundries:**

Wood, glass or paper palette

Jar for solvents/water

Sketchbook

\* These are what I use for my palette to avoid strong odors, and heavy metals like cadmium, cobalt, etc. for a safer studio. Students may use whatever materials they are most comfortable and familiar with.

**LUNCH:**

A one-hour lunch break will be taken each day. Students may bring their own lunch or visit nearby restaurants.

## **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

Robin is a full-time professional artist known for painting urban scenes, beachscapes and figurative light-filled moments in rich, colorful oil paint. She finds beauty in the ordinary, mundane and intimate rather than the grand vista and captures life using fresh and textural brush strokes. Her work is regularly selected to exhibit in prestigious society exhibitions. Robin is an admired instructor and teaches studio and plein air workshops in the US and abroad. Her instructional video “Brushwork Secrets Unleashed” is available at [PaintTube.tv](http://PaintTube.tv).

She is a signature member of the American Impressionist Society and artist member of the Oil Painters of America, National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society and an Artist in Residence at the Austin Visual Arts Association ArtSpace.