Lourdes Rosas Rasdall

Workshop Title: ***Creating Textural Backgrounds in Watercolor***

Workshop Description:

In the first part of this workshop, we will treat our watercolor paper with texture and "resists". After dried, we'll come back and paint on the treated paper. Because the backgrounds will already be so full of texture, the actual painting part will be a breeze. I will walk you through designing your painting from beginning to end, and selecting a color palette that will help convey your message. The end result will be your own personal creation.

I will have reference photos, but you are also welcome to bring your own. Suitable subjects for this technique are simple, large shapes, such as fruits and vegetables, enlarged birds and fish shapes, human or animal figures, large circles and other geometric shapes. Not suitable: small, detailed subjects and complicated scenes.

If you typically paint small, consider using larger paper and larger brushes.

Supplies you will need:

- Watercolor paper (140lb, cotton not synthetic paper), pads, blocks or loose sheets, 11X14 or 12X16 is a good medium size, or you can go larger. Your preference of cold or hot press paper.
- Watercolor paints, transparent colors only – preferably tubes vs. pans, but bring what you have
- Watercolor brushes – Flats and rounds in different sizes – you should have a large flat, at least 1" and a 12 or 14" round
- Watercolor palette – whatever you have
- A couple of disposable styrofoam or plastic white plates
- A support board slightly larger than your paper (unless you're using watercolor paper blocks)
- Small plastic spatula or plastic hotel key.

Optional (bring only if you already have these; I will have some for classroom use):

- Stencils and stamps with interesting shapes (non-representational)
- Other mark-making tools you may use in mixed media

- I will have gesso, stamps, stencils and other mark-making tools for everyone's use

What I paint with:

- Watercolor paper – paper blocks and full sheets (cut down to desired size), 140lb,100% cotton. My favorites brands: Arches, Fabriano Artistico, Fluid 100 - I use both cold press & hot press
- Professional grade watercolor paints – I prefer tubes vs. pans, but will use pans in a travel size palette & for plein air sketching. Favorite brands: Holbein, Mijello Mission, Daniel Smith, Michael Harding.
- Starter colors (you can do a lot with these): a cool & a warm of each primary color (red, yellow & blue), a warm brown like Burnt Sienna or Quinacridone Burnt Orange, Neutral Tint. Sap or Moss Green is a good convenient green.

  Other favorite colors: Turquoise or Horizon Blue, Indanthrone Blue, Orange Lake or Transparent Pyrrole Orange
- Watercolor palette – a palette that has wells for pigments & flat areas where you can mix washes. I prefer the ones with a lid that also doubles as a mixing tray. If your palette does not have spaces for mixing colors, Styrofoam or white plastic plates will work.
- Watercolor brushes - Rounds & flats in small, medium & large sizes. One 1.5" (or larger) flat or hake for wetting the entire paper. Rounds should always come to a fine tip when wet, and flat brushes to a chisel (except for the hake brush), a small flat brush for lifting
- Waterproof black ink marker, like Micron or Faber Castell Pitt marker nib size 05 or 08, and a white gel pen for detail work and for signing my paintings.