



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

**Workshop Description:**

In the first part of this workshop, we will prepare backgrounds full of texture and “resists”. After they dry, we’ll come back and paint over them. 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, selecting a color palette that will help convey your message. The end result will be your own personal creation.

I will have reference materials, 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 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, 12x16 or larger will be best for this workshop, either cold or hot press.
- Small, cheap, watercolor spiral notebook for color mixing, thumbnail sketching and notes.
- Watercolor paints, transparent colors only – bring what you already have but tubes, not pans
- Watercolor brushes – Flats and rounds in different sizes – you should have a large flat, at least 1” or larger and a 12 or 14” round
- Watercolor palette – whatever you have
- A couple of disposable Styrofoam or white plastic plates
- A support board slightly larger than your paper (unless you’re using watercolor blocks as your paper)
- A bottle or jar of gesso
- 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

**What I paint with:**

- Watercolor paper - blocks and full sheets, 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, QoR, 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 .

Other favorite colors: Turquoise, Cerulean Blue, Indanthrone Blue, Quinacridone Gold

- Watercolor palette – a palette that has wells for pigments & flat areas where you can mix washes. I prefer the ones with a lid also doubles as a mixing area.
- 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.
- 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.