

Marlborough College – Summer School 2018

Painting course with Melanie Cambridge

TITLE: Oils, Fast and Loose

FULL DAY COURSE – 30th July to 3rd August 2018



Course Description:

Learn to paint “alla prima” and loosen up! In the studio learn specific techniques to help you paint quickly and in a loose style, including key brushwork skills, how to layer paint wet on wet, colour mixing, controlling tones and how to use impasto and thinned colour to best effect. Painting from still life arrangements, photographs and sketches. Some outdoor painting, weather permitting.

THE COURSE IN DETAIL: - what can I expect?

The week will be full of demonstrations accompanying all sessions. There will also be plenty of one-to-one tuition to help everyone achieve their very best by the end of the week. Starting with a series of lessons on the technical aspects of paint-handling and colour mixing, there will be opportunities to work both in the studio using still life arrangements as well as some on location sketching and painting, weather permitting. This outline of the course is a guide to the topics we aim to cover to give you some idea of what to expect during the week. The schedule is flexible and I am happy to adapt it to suit the individual requirements wherever possible.

DAY ONE: Brushstrokes & Paint-handling:

A studio-based day looking at various paint-handling techniques for this approach to oils, including how to lay out your palette, lessons on different types of brushstrokes, colour-mixing and colour theory before moving on to paint from still life arrangements with fruit and flowers, aimed at helping you put into practice techniques learned during the morning. In the afternoon, we look at skies and clouds with a series of quick studies to try. Each one will be demonstrated by the tutor before you try your own version. Photos and colour guide handout to support each lesson.

DAY TWO: Landscapes – the key elements

Today we look at specific techniques for painting trees & foliage whilst keeping brushstrokes loose and impressionistic. Several quick studies in the studio working step-by-step from sketches and photographs to learn how to paint different types of trees. In the afternoon, we venture outside to look at trees in the grounds, enjoy a demonstration on location with the opportunity to have a go yourself.

DAY THREE: The “30 minute challenge”

Something different to help you really loosen up. This morning, watch a demonstration first on how to paint a simple scene in 30 minutes before having a go yourself. You will be surprised how much you can achieve. There will then be a further 30 minutes on the same painting, giving you time to put in some of the details. We have a friendly review before moving on to a second project this afternoon. Key skills learned today will really help you when we venture outside to paint tomorrow.

DAY FOUR: On location

In the morning, we look at painting boats and figures before venturing out on location in the afternoon. The tutor will also offer an on-location demonstration today to show how to put into practice the key techniques for painting quickly, essential for outdoor painting.

DAY FIVE: Putting it all together

Time to continue painting in the studio and review works done during the week. There will also be several still life arrangements available for "30 minute" quick studies as well as time to look at glazing and other techniques which can only be used on top of already dried paint. At the end of the afternoon there is the opportunity to join the Court Exhibition to show off your favourite paintings to friends and family.

INCLUDED IN THE COURSE (for you use during the course and to take home and enjoy afterwards)

2-brush set – a medium filbert for blocking-in and smaller round brush for details

All course notes and handouts

PROVIDED IN THE STUDIO (for use during your stay)

Oil paints

Alkyd painting medium

Odourless thinner for cleaning brushes

Tear-off palette and dipper to hold painting medium

Some oil sketching paper for initial exercises

Charcoal

Palette Knife

Studio tables and chairs

Lightweight sketching easels for indoor and outdoor use (if you don't have your own)

WHAT TO BRING ALONG:

At least 4 canvas boards or stretched canvases – sized approx 16 x 12 inches or smaller.

If you prefer using oil sketching paper throughout the course, please bring a pad of whatever size you wish

Pencil or pen & sketchbook

Camera if you find this useful

Cover up shirt & sun hat (insect repellent and sun cream)

Roll of kitchen paper or rags for wiping brushes

Lightweight easel / table easel/ pochade box if you have any of these for outdoor work, you might like to bring it

Folding chair and table if you wish to use these when working outdoors.

Any favourite brushes you wish to bring along

RECOMMENDED READING IN ADVANCE OF THIS COURSE:

30 Minute Oils by Melanie Cambridge – copies available from www.melaniecambridge.com, or from your local Library or indeed Amazon.co.uk

I am always happy to discuss any concerns you may have about this course or what to bring along so please feel free to contact me via email using art@melaniecambridge.com. If you wish to speak on the telephone, then please leave your phone number so I can contact you.

Email: art@melaniecambridge.com

Website: www.melaniecambridge.com

About the Tutor:

Melanie's work is based on light and colour, capturing the essence of a location rather than every detail. She has written several art instruction books and runs painting workshops and breaks around the UK as well as being a regular tutor at Marlborough Summer School. She teaches in oils, gouache and mixed media. Melanie also gives demonstrations and workshops to art groups around London and the South East.