

# Marlborough College – Summer School 2018

Painting course with Melanie Cambridge

## Title: Oils, Top Tips and Trade Secrets

FULL DAY COURSE – 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018



### Course Description:

Creating successful paintings relies on having a clear understanding not only of basic techniques but those tricks of the trade that usually only come with experience. We will explore everything the tutor has learned over a lifetime painting, from creating your own language of brushstrokes; using colour to express emotion; to how to create movement in your works. An essential course for artist's wanting to move on from the basics.

### THE COURSE IN DETAIL: - what can I expect?

The week will be full of demonstrations with all sessions. We look at painting landscapes, interiors, seascapes and still life during the week. Each day looking in more detail at different skills and “secrets” to help you improve your painting approach and understand how to create works that will really stand out from the crowd. Working from sketches and photos (supplied) alongside still life arrangements. Please feel free to bring your own sketches and photos if you wish. There will also be time during the week for a 20-minute individual assessment of any paintings you might wish to bring along where you feel some help and advice would be welcome.

(The following agenda is flexible and includes time for students to practice the exercises)

#### DAY ONE: Making marks and the power of tonal contrast

- Mark making – the key to creating form and shape.
- Edges – from hard to soft and why they are important
- Understanding tones and tonal contrast.
- Working with a 5-step tonal scale

#### DAY TWO: The Power of Colour

- Understanding the colour wheel and use of complementary colour.
- Using colour to create different atmospheres and moods.
- The importance of a limited palette
- What is colour key?

#### DAY THREE: Secrets of Good Composition

- Working with the Rule of Thirds and 2/5ths proportions – which is better?
- The basics work well, but you need to understand why – a look at successful compositional shapes
- The power of diagonals to create movement within a painting
- Looking at the use by Canaletto and Stubbs of the double square as a proportional shape

**DAY FOUR: Top Tips to “correct mistakes”**

- Using glazes to “warm up” dull greens
- How to correct tonal imbalances
- Using tone to create a centre of interest
- How to guide the viewer’s eye to your focal point

**DAY FIVE: Final Project – putting it all together**

Working from a series of photographs supplied, create your own painting incorporating all top tips and trade secrets learned during this week. A landscape and seascape option available (or if you prefer to bring your own reference material, please do). 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 paint  
Alkyd painting medium  
Low Odour thinner for cleaning brushes  
Palette knife  
Charcoal  
Tear-off palette with dipper for holding medium  
Some oil sketching paper for initial exercises  
Studio tables and chairs  
Lightweight sketching easels for indoor and outdoor use (if you don’t have your own)  
All course notes and handouts – also available to download to your Tablet i-Pad if you have one.

**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:**

Tablet or i-Pad if you have one as images and handouts will be available to download from a pen drive or can be sent via email if preferred.

At least 3 canvas boards or stretched canvases – please bring whatever size you feel comfortable with  
Any favourite brushes

If you prefer working on oil sketching paper all week, please bring an extra pad with you of whatever size you wish

Pencil or pen & sketchbook

Please feel free to bring along any reference photos if you wish to use them.

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](mailto: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](mailto:art@melaniecambridge.com)

Website: [www.melaniecambridge.com](http://www.melaniecambridge.com)

**About the Tutor:**

Melanie’s work is based on light and colour, capturing the essence of a subject 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.