

Painting with Linda Umphrey
Rocks and Trees and Bushes! Oh My

(This workshop is open to beginners as well as those who have painted for years.)

In this workshop we will be working on several of the basic elements found in most landscapes, namely rocks, trees and bushes. We will approach painting them so they fit into the landscape rather than on the landscape. The students will work on a series of exercises to help recognize and practice the basic principles of design and value in a composition. Rocks, trees and bushes will be used as spacial indicators within the landscape design such as: shape-size, position, overlapping, sharp and diminishing detail, converging parallels, color, value, and texture. In addition to the assigned studies, the students will be able to work on their own projects either new or ones they have already started.

The mornings will be exercises with discussion and the afternoon sessions will have short demonstrations followed by self study sessions where the students work on individual projects.

Other stuff: (Beginners with limited background please contact Linda so she can help you get ready for the workshop.)

IMPORTANT: THIS IS TO BE A FUN TIME!!!

Supplies and Materials

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SUPPLIES IS JUST A SUGGESTION. If you already have colors that you are happy with please use them. In this workshop I will be using oils. If you would rather work in another medium that is quite all right. Just keep in mind that techniques vary with the medium used.

Support:

Easel or some type of support to firmly hold your painting surface.

Palette:

There are many designs, either hard surface or disposable of a reasonable size (such as 12 X 16) to set out your paints and still have room for mixing. Palettes with lids are nice as they keep the paints contained. (or the bugs out while you eat lunch.)

Suggested colors: (oil, alkyds, acrylics)

Warm and Cool Yellow (cadmium yellow lemon / cadmium yellow medium)

Warm and Cool Red (cadmium red medium / alizarin or permanent rose)

Blues (cerulean blue / french ultramarine blue)

(Greens can be mixed from the above or you can use:
viridian, permanent sap green or permanent cadmium green.)

Transparent Iron oxide (red tone) and/or Burnt sienna

Dioxazine purple (optional)

Titanium White

Other colors I have on my palette to make my life easier and may use according to the particular subject are:
cadmium red light, cadmium orange, cadmium red deep (in place of alizarin), yellow ochre, yellow ochre light (nice light grayed yellow), transparent iron oxide (yellow tone).

I am not suggesting you get all these colors, the basics listed above are more than adequate, but you might add one of these from time to time to give your palette a change.

Paint solvent: For oils, please use an odorless variety such as Turpenoid and a closed container.

Painting Medium: Liquin or a similar type medium for oils

Brushes: Bristle, flat or filbert in sizes 2, 4, 6 (larger if you are going to work on a large surface)

Note: These are only suggestions, if you have similar sizes or prefer to use rounds or bristles please use what is comfortable and familiar to you. Just remember in oils a firmer bristle, whether man made or not, is better for moving the paint.

Canvas or Canvas Panels:

For the exercises: 4 panels in a small size between 8 X 10 - 11X 14

You can also use cut canvas pieces firmly taped to a rigid surface. (These are for the problem studies and exploring new ideas.) If you would rather use gessoed panels that is ok.

Also 1 or 2 canvases or panels 11 X 14 or larger (don't get carried away) for your personal studies in the pm's. These can also be pieces you are working on at home. (Be sure to bring your reference material.)

Miscellaneous:

Paper towels, trash bags, soft pencil, sketch book, table (for supplies and palette if easel doesn't have these features built in), chair (A color wheel is always good to have with you.)

Reference Material:

Landscape photos or painting interest. Black and white of same photo enlarged on copy machine standard 8 1/2x11 will do.

Started work (with reference sources used) to work on during our afternoon self study. (Or you can continue on with the morning exercises.)

Personal Reading

These books can answer many if not all your questions:

"Alla Prima-Everything I Know About Painting" by Richard Schmid

"Keys to Successful Landscape Painting" by Foster Caddell (This may be out of print but it might be in the library.)

"Finding your VISUAL VOICE" by Dakota Mitchell