

Abstract Painting-Pushing the Boundaries

Workshop Agenda

Overview: Instructors: Diane Williams and Chuck Potter
dianewilliamsart.net chuckpotterart.net

Pushing Boundaries

There are nice paintings and there are paintings that quicken your heart and really command your attention. So, what is different between the nice paintings and the ones that live on the edge? In this 4-day workshop, we will practice several stages of creating abstract paintings that display authentic mark-making, compelling composition, rich color and fine polish.

Thursday:

10:00- Introductions and class overview.

Stage 1-Preparation of Substrates

- Applying Gesso
- Using molding paste
- Other materials to customize surfaces

Stage 2-Using The Grid

- Materials and importance of working on multiple canvases
- Loosening up and dancing with the work.
- Using your body to create movement
- Mark making techniques and exercises

12:30- Lunch

Stage 3-Discovering Yourself In Your Work

1:30- Work on paintings-instructors will circulate to give advice, direction

- Begin painting on 3 canvases
- Use Bold strokes learned in grid exercises above
- Open and stretch your arm reach

3:45- Clean up

4:00- Dismiss

Friday:

10:00- Discuss composition

Stage 4-Alternative Technique Exercises

- Washes, drips, runs, puddles, and gravity
- Making rust
- Stamps and stencils
- Lino and wood blocks

12:30- Lunch

1:30-

Stage 5-Excavation and Discovery

- Two methods for finding composition: Blocking and/or building form
- Veiling to create transparency
- Sanding and removing
- Blocking out to eliminate marks
- Creating contrast

2:30-Work on paintings-instructors will circulate to give advice, direction

3:45- Clean up

4:00- Dismiss

Saturday:

10:00- Discuss composition

11:00 Start individual critiques

Others work on paintings

12:30- Lunch

1:30- Work on paintings-instructors will circulate to give advice, direction

Sunday:

10:00-Discuss Finishing touches

Stage 6-Finishing Touches

- Finishing stages
- Glazing
- Highlights and lowlights
- Varnishing & waxing

2:45- Group Critique

3:45- Clean up

4:00- Dismiss

Rust Solution Recipe

Ingredients:

White distilled vinegar

Steel wool pads (without soap)

Hydrogen peroxide & spray bottle

Clean plastic or glass container with lid

Fill container half way with vinegar. Then add steel wool pads (8 per gallon). Fill the rest of the container to about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Close lid and let rest for 2-3 days. Paint with solution and quicken oxidation by spraying with hydrogen peroxide.

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