Visual Literacy through Gouache  
~ an observational approach ~

July 30-August 1, 2019  
3 Day workshop

Highlights of the Workshop

On glorious days we will sketch and paint outside, in the plein air tradition, and focus on the elements of composition and design. The workshop is designed as an introductory painting course and will demystify the language of color, paint application, and paper selection. Gouache or opaque watercolor is a form of opaque watermedia commonly used in small format paintings. The medium is more forgiving than watercolors and can be manipulated after it is dry unlike acrylic. Gouache is luminous, easy to apply, and a great medium for beginners. The workshop will also explore how to integrate visual learning strategies into the classroom.

There will be ample time to paint on your own as well as occupy the rocking chairs- while the sounds of the sea rejuvenate your soul.

Course Objectives:

1) Demystify gouache; explore what is in your paint box.
2) Introduce visual literacy strategies for the classroom.
3) Differentiate between the actual landscape and a pleasing composition.
4) Prepare “color palette samplers” for future reference.
5) Explore the rocky shore, tide pools, sand beach, meadow and forest for inspiration.
6) Create paintings of the natural world that will hopefully lead to its appreciation and preservation.
MATERIALS:
Opaque Watercolor Paints:
There are drastic differences among the grades of gouache paint and unfortunately quality paint can be expensive. Try to purchase a small set of gouache paints. Be sure to purchase a tube of titanium white as it is used as a foundation. **DO NOT purchase acrylic gouache.** Holbein and Windsor Newton are respected brands.

Paint
Palette colors are personal in nature and continually grow and change with the artist over the years.

Brushes:
Stiffer brushes tend to work better with gouache paints. I tend to use synthetic flat brushes and a few small round brushes for details.

I own numerous brushes, yet I primarily use:
Flat brushes: ½ inch flat brush for blocking in color and ¼ inch for details or architectural components.

Round brushes: Brush: #2, #1 and a rigor brush

Board:
- Illustration board is recommended
- Canson illustration board with a matte finish
- Sizes: 7 x 10 or 10 x 14 blocks for island life.

We are going to painting "little gems" and not huge masterpieces.

Palette: A non porous white surface is a must. Any commercial watercolor palette (John Pike) with a cover and a large mixing area for paints.

Miscellaneous Supplies:
- Drawing pencils (2B or 4B, No “H” pencils) and eraser
- Roll of white artists tape ¼ inch
- Roll of paper towels-a must
- Water bucket (Large yogurt container)
- X-acto knife
- Small spray bottle
- X Large zip-lock bags for your masterpieces, treasures, or wet bathing suit.
- iPAD with camera. They are great for taking photographs on location and then paint the images in the sanctity of the studio.

Tuition
$400 for 30 Contact Hours or 3 CEUs which includes tuition and materials.

Free transportation to and from the island is included, along with free housing in the island’s Education Center or tent sites. For additional information or photographs of the site, visit www.maine.gov/dmr/burntisland/courses/index.htm

Primary Instructors
Elaine Jones (Education Director, Department of Marine Resources)
Carolyn Nichols: Artist (MFA in Medical Illustration), Naturalist (MS-Science Literacy), and High School Science Teacher

Class Schedule
This three-day, residential workshop will be based at the Burnt Island Light Station in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Instruction will begin at 8:00 AM with activities continuing into
the evening hours. Participants will be expected to complete assignments; participate in all classroom and field activities; and engage in discussions and critiques.

Books
A variety of watercolor books will be available to examine while on the island. We recommend that you look through the collection and purchase the one which best suits your needs when you return home.

I adore the Claudia Nice’s series of books (I will bring some)

For More Information: E-mail Elaine Jones (elaine.jones@maine.gov) or call (207) 592-1839

“If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask ther her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life.”

-Rachel Carlson

Course Topics and Objectives

TUESDAY - July 30, 2019

9:00 AM Arrive at the Department of Marine Resources Laboratory in W. Boothbay Harbor, Maine.
Load the boat, and travel out to Burnt Island.
Settle into Education Center & Review Housekeeping needs

Introduction
Develop a Community
Housekeeping

Overview of Materials

- Paper
  Paper plays an important role in the desired outcome of a painting. We will examine different brands and types of watercolor paper.

- Palettes
  Palettes can be as simple as a white china plate, a scrap of plexi-glass to a multi-well field-painting ensemble. We will look at what is available on the market or what is easily found in your recycle bin.

- Brushes
  Brushes are made with a variety of materials from sable, squirrel hair to synthetic blends. We will determine what the most important characteristics are of a brush and how to care for them.
Paints
Knowing your medium is critical to successful painting. We will wet our brushes and examine what is in our paint boxes.

Introduction to Color
- Color Charts-get acquainted with your paints. Explore the characteristics of paint: transparency, staining, granulation, and permanence.
  - Primaries
  - Traditional Color Wheel
  - Warm Versus Cool Colors
  - The Quiller Color Wheel
  - Mixing- Avoiding "mud"

Watercolor Technique—Washes
- Light, medium, and dark
- Wet on Dry
- Wet on wet gradation
- Dry brush

Visit the Lighthouse, Museum, and Keeper's Dwelling

WEDNESDAY -July 31, 2019

Elements of Composition
- Viewfinders
- Creative altering
- Cropping and simplifying
- Provide the viewer and entrance and a pathway
- Asymmetry- vertical or horizontal
- Lots of sky is great for the beginner
- Patterns, rows of trees, banding, instances for contrast, broken up shapes
- Paint from photographs

Landscape Painting
- Little gems
- Work sky to land
- Light to Dark
- Perspective
- Distance- lighter/paler/smaller
- Foreground-darker/more detail
- Evening: Art Walk through the day

THURSDAY - August 1, 2019

- Watercolors in the classroom
- Paint on your own
- Evaluation of Course
- Pack-up and clean Education Center
- Depart for the Mainland at 4:00 PM