

Tubac School of Fine Art

The Adult Education Division of TCA



Workshop Title: *Learn Plein Air in Studio!*

Instructor Name: *Jeanne Mackenzie*

Workshop Type: *Studio Plein Air*

Medium: *Oils, but those proficient in other mediums welcome*

Dates: *January 19-21, 2027 | 9 AM-4 PM*

Location: *Tubac Center of the Arts, 9 Plaza Road, Tubac, AZ, 85646*

Course Description: Whether you are new to plein air painting or comfortable in the field, this class will help you become more spontaneous and confident with your oil landscapes. Photo reference will be used as we learn the skills needed to paint on location. While having fun, the emphasis will be to make intentional decisions on good composition, values and color.

Course Syllabus:

DAY ONE–Morning:

- Hand out artist packets (reference material, view finders, guidelines...)
- Studio painting or Plein Air? Can you tell the difference?
- Pros/Cons of Painting from photos- What makes a good reference photo?

Objective: Students will become aware of the pluses and limitations of painting from photo references. Students will be able to tell what makes a good reference photo.

DAY ONE–Afternoon:

- Instructor Quick Demo
- Exercises #1 and #2 painting exercises- designed to loosen up and look at large shapes.
Instructor provides canvas and photos.

Objective: Students will gain knowledge and practice in looking at the 'big picture' as opposed to the small detail.

DAY TWO–Morning:

- Discussion of
 - Choosing a good reference photo
 - Deciding division of space/organized block-in
 - selected detail/focal point.
 - Value decisions
 - learning to simplify and edit.
- Exercises #3 and #4 (choice of photos/longer paint time) emphasizing:
 - good contrast/values
 - compositional clout
 - color mixing: chromatic/neutrals

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Objective: Students will be able to make 'quicker' compositional, design, color, and value decisions while being less tied to details. Students will be able to identify a focal point.

DAY TWO–Afternoon:

- Continue with paint exercises.

DAY THREE–Morning:

- Students bring in samples of their previous artwork – Critiques emphasizing course material.

DAY THREE–Afternoon:

- Working from photos students will work on a larger format paint surface using the knowledge and skills they used in their quick, smaller studies.

Objective: Students will learn to critique their own paintings with a more 'educated' eye, referring to artistic elements. Students will complete 2-3 small paintings.

Any questions about materials?

Please email Instructor jeanne@jeannemackenzie.com or go to www.jeannemackenzie.com

For other inquiries contact [520-398-2371](tel:520-398-2371) or creativespecialist@tubacarts.org