

Painting: Watercolors and Plants

Ruby Red Workshop
October 2 – October 23, 2024
Wednesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm
Educator: Mindy Bray, mindybray@gmail.com

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$130 / Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-100.*

Class Description:

In this course, students will explore both expressive and representational techniques in watercolor, ink, and gouache. Using seasonal, botanical subjects such as branches and flowers, students will complete drawings that include texture, color, and depth. Students will learn a variety of water media techniques including stretching paper, creating washes, and building transparent vs. opaque layers. We will make connections to work in the DAM's Asian Art Collection, including the use of value to create depth in the ink painting *Bamboo* by Chinese artist Zhou Zhenyue, or the use of texture and brushwork in the piece *White Herons and an Old Willow* by Japanese artist Kikuchi Hobun. We will also look at contemporary uses of watercolor in the Denver Art Museum collection, including watercolor drawings by Enrique Martinez Celaya and Laura Ball.

What to Expect:

This class welcomes both beginners as well as students who have some drawing or painting experience. We will visit the galleries together to discuss water media work in the DAM's collections, and then spend time learning new techniques in small studies in the classroom. Students will then use these new approaches in a larger, finished drawing from observation of botanical subjects. We will have the option to work outdoors from life in the Sensory Garden or focus indoors on our favorite houseplants or branches.

Timeline:

Class 1:

Gallery Visit to the Asian Art Collection

B&W Mark making in Ink

Stretching Paper

Class 2:

Look at images from the exhibition "Drawings from Vicki and Kent Logan Collection"

Expressive Washes in Watercolor

Layering Washes to Create Depth

Class 3:

Observational Drawing and Composition

Opacity Vs. Transparency with Gouache
Saving Whites

Class 4:
Studio Time to Finish Larger Drawing
Reflection and Conversation

Class Cancellation Policy:

If a class or workshop needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a “make-up” day will be scheduled on a FRIDAY or SATURDAY as the educator’s schedule allows.

Materials:

Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-100.

GET THE MATERIALS KIT AT [MEININGER’S ART SUPPLY](#) or purchase the below items individually.

Watercolor Tubes - small set	https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-cotman-set-of-12-tubes/
Watercolor brushes	https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-essentials-value-brush-set-assorted-brushes-brown-nylon-set-of-12/
1 bottle black India ink	https://www.dickblick.com/items/dr-ph-martins-bombay-india-ink-1-oz-black/
1 pad watercolor paper	https://www.dickblick.com/items/canson-xl-watercolor-pad-9-x-12-euro-fold-30-sheets/
1 tube white gouache	https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-designers-gouache-permanent-white-14-ml-tube/
2" bristle brush	https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-mega-gesso-brush-2/
Watercolor palette	https://www.dickblick.com/products/richeson-8-well-slant-mixing-tray/
Hard graphite pencils - H, 2H, and 4H	https://www.dickblick.com/items/staedtler-lumograph-pencil-h/
Art gum eraser	https://www.dickblick.com/products/prismacolor-artgum-erasers/

Educator:

Mindy Bray is a painter and muralist based in Denver, CO. Her works examine the intersection of natural and built environments. The images are reduced and transformed to create complex visual fields of shape and pattern. Based on photographs of locations such as city parks, wilderness trails and residential landscapes, the works present liminal places that trace the complex relationship between people and their habitat. Mindy earned her Master of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Iowa in 2005 and has taught drawing and foundations at the University of Denver and Metropolitan State University. Her work has been exhibited nationally at galleries including Goodwin Fine Art, Rule Gallery and Iron-ton, and her work has been featured in New American Paintings, The Denver Post, Modern in Denver magazine, art ltd., and Luxe Interiors and Design. Mindy’s public commissions include permanent works at the Westin Hotel at Denver International Airport and the Colorado Convention Center, and her private commissions can be found in commercial and residential spaces throughout Denver.

www.mindybray.com

LOCAL DENVER AREA MATERIALS RESOURCES

Fine Art materials

Meiningers
Guiry's

ReCreative
K&K Surplus
Queen City Salvage

General Art & Craft materials

Michaels
Walmart
ReCreative

Tools & Hardware

Home Depot
Lowe's
Habitat for Humanity Restore
K&K Surplus

Fibers

Fancy Tiger
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Blazing Star Ranch

Sculpting materials

Reynolds Advanced Materials
Western Sculpting Supply

Reuse/Second-hand materials

ARC
Goodwill
Habitat for Humanity Restore
Gone for Good

ONLINE RESOURCES

DickBlick
Paradise Fibers
Revolution Fibers
Amazon

Ruby Room Policies

CLEANUP:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet painting or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage in the equipment closet. Students will also need to take home all their own materials after each class. Make sure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

CLASSROOM ACCESS

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours and open studio hours. Please contact the Manager of Creative and Public Engagement, Sarah Rockett, if you need to arrange entrance to the Ruby Room outside of those hours – srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

MATERIAL USAGE

Approved Processes & Materials

Please ask if you are unsure about using a material in the workshop.

- All materials that are non-toxic and non-flammable
- Chalk/charcoal/compressed powder-based drawing materials
- Loose powder-based drawing/painting materials – i.e. powdered graphite, powdered pigment
- Loose powder-based 3D materials – i.e. plaster, alginate

- Clay – air drying only
- Oil paints & oil medium
- Adhesives
- Odorless mineral spirits – in small amounts
- Acetone – in small amounts
- Hot plates – for encaustic or use w/ wax-based process
- Hot glue & hot glue guns

Restricted Processes & Materials

- Aerosols
 - No spray paint onsite
 - Fixatives and finishing sprays can be used outside with the use of a drop cloth.
- Saws/Wood cutting
- Organic materials
- Any materials that off-gas or produce a pungent smell will require prior approval.

Flammable Materials

STORAGE: Any flammable materials left in the classroom must be stored in the flammable materials cabinet when not in use. This includes all aerosol products, mineral spirits, acetone, etc.

DISPOSAL: Please use the flammables disposal container to dispose of all flammable materials or rags, paper towels, etc. that have been saturated with flammable materials. Do not put these items in the regular trash can or down the sink. This includes materials such as mineral spirits, acetone, paint thinner, oil paint, etc.

Disposal of Viscous Materials

- **Paint:** Scrape or wipe large amounts of paint into the trash can. Remaining paint may be washed down the sink. Make sure that paint does not sit and dry on the bottom of the sink. Use sponges to wash out the sink, and run water for 1-2 minutes after paint disposal.
- **Plaster:** Dispose of wet plaster into the trash can. Leave container to dry, and crack remaining plaster into the trash once it is dry. Hands and tools used for plaster may be washed in the sink with water running 1-2 minutes after washing.
- **Clay:** Remove wet/dry clay from hands and tools as much as possible before washing in sink. Run water in sink for 1-2 minutes following washing.

SAFETY:

Teachers and students are responsible for practicing safe work habits at all times, as improper use of tools could cause injury. Please work intelligently, safely, and follow all safety guidelines.

- Teachers and students are only to use equipment and tools that they either already know how to use, or have been instructed how to use. If you have a question about how to operate any equipment, please ask!
- Work smart, pace yourself, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Safety glasses, safety goggles, nitrile gloves, and dust masks are available upon request.