

Painting: Impressionist Inspired Watercolor

Ruby Red Workshop
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
4-week session, January 6 – 27, 2026
Educator: Sarah Shay, sarahrshay@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

The foundations of learning and practice in this 4-week class will be centered around the question of how the Impressionists captured light and color in their paintings. Students will explore different approaches in creating a sense of atmosphere with color, light and shadow, and mark-making through the study of *The Honest Eye: Camille Pissarro's Impressionism* and other Impressionist works in the DAM collections. Students will learn basic watercolor techniques to guide their artistic explorations, culminating in a final painting over the course of the class session.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$135 / Member: \$140 / Student: \$140 / Non-Member: \$175

**The registration cost includes a Studio Fee for ticketed entry to *The Honest Eye: Camille Pissarro's Impressionism*, \$5 for Members, \$15 for Non-Members.*

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$80-100.*

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a make-up day will be scheduled on a later TUESDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email access@denverartmuseum.org at least ten (10)

business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials spend is \$80-100.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before picking up prior to the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Watercolor Paper	1	Arches Watercolor Block, Cold Press, 9" x 12", 140 lb
Watercolor Paint Set	1 set	Kuretake Gansai Tambi Watercolor Paint Set, 36 colors
Watercolor Brush Set	1 set	Princeton Brush Set, Synthetic Taklon, 7 pieces
Reference Photos		Up to you!

*Note: All materials will be demonstrated in the first class, you may wait to purchase any materials until the second class. You may also use materials you already own or share if registering with a friend.

What to Expect:

This class is a wonderful opportunity to learn watercolor techniques through the DAM's collection of Impressionist Paintings. The class will visit *The Honest Eye: Camille Pissarro's Impressionism* to look closely at the techniques, including the use of marks and color, that the Impressionist painters utilized in the application of paint to the surface of their paintings. Their approach will also be used to explore how contemporary artists with works in the DAM's collections have drawn upon the Impressionists in their practice. In the studio, students will experiment with weekly watercolor exercises that build up to a final 9 x 12" painting.

Timeline:

Week 1 – Class Introduction: Pissarro and the Palette

- Gallery visit to *The Honest Eye: Camille Pissarro's Impressionism*.
- Basic Watercolor materials overview.
- Painting color grids.

Week 2 – Composition and Color: Creating Atmosphere

- Building color through mark-making in watercolor.

Week 3 – Making their Mark: Impressionists and Contemporary Practice

- Presentation of works from the DAM Collections.
- Creating overall atmosphere with composition.

Week 4 – Building a Final Composition

- Building a final painting through Layers and Mark-making.

Educator:

Sarah Shay is a Denver-based artist. For Sarah, painting is a means of slowing down and nourishing a connection within ourselves and with each other. Sarah studied Photography and Anthropology at the University of Iowa, and Arts and Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Teaching and learning are at the core of Sarah's painting practice, and Sarah has taught in K-12, Higher Education, and community-based programming in Colorado.

<https://www.instagram.com/sarahshaystudio/>

WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. Students can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits

to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

Cleanup:

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

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org.

QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org or Sarah Rockett at srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at info@denverartmuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!