

Painting: Exploring Watercolor

Ruby Red Workshop
Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
6-week session, August 27 – October 1, 2026
Educator: J.R. Monks, jr@jrmonks.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Once viewed only as a sketching medium for more ambitious studio efforts in oil, watercolors are the most common medium among painters today. In this 6-week class, students will review fundamental concepts, learn about color, tone, edges, and drawing to create watercolor paintings of their own. Students will study the work of American painters such as Hopper, Sargent, Wyeth, and many others in order to inspire them to greater levels in their own painting. Students will complete practice exercises as well as work on subjects of their choosing. Join J. R. Monks for a deep dive into the beautiful world of watercolors.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$240 / Member: \$255 / Student: \$255 / Non-Member: \$300

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-70.*

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 THURSDAY 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 cost is \$50-70. Additional materials will be supplied.

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
9" x 12" watercolor pad	1	Canson XL Watercolor Pad Or up to you!
Watercolor round brush, size 10	1	Jack Richeson 9000 Series Synthetic Short Handle Brush
Watercolor travel set	1 set, 12 or more colors	Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolor Paint Set, 12 Half Pan
Ceramic or plastic paint palette	1	Flower-Shaped Watercolor Palette

What to Expect:

Students will be exposed to watercolor materials and techniques through demonstrations. The main emphasis of the class will be learning and building fundamental painting skills. Students will learn the basis of technique in this workshop in order to go forward exploring the wonderful medium of watercolor. Students will practice techniques in the classroom setting and visit a selection of DAM galleries to see examples of how artists use the fundamentals of watercolor to create original works.

Timeline:

Week 1

- Brief introduction, focus on reviewing materials, and studio safety considerations. Watercolor terms, color, and color mixing. Gallery visit for inspiration and close looking.

Week 2

- Assessing form, value, and understanding various types of edges students may observe in a subject.

Week 3

- Investigation of the qualities of color and apply lessons to painting a subject.

Week 4

- Introduction to using various types of reference material and painting from observation. Students will receive instruction designed to prepare for working on location as well as from photographic reference.

Week 5

- Studio work time with support from instructor.

Week 6

- Studio work time, reflection, observation, and conversation.

Educator:

J.R. Monks is a contemporary visual storyteller of the West. He works both directly in the field and in his studio and strives to be honest and bold in his approach creating images that speak to the beauty, grit, and spectacle of the Western United States. J.R. is a 4th generation Colorado rancher and maintains a studio in his small hometown on the eastern plains near the ranch where he was born and continues to live. J.R. feels a deep connection to the landscape and those who live closely in harmony with her, and his art is a humble homage to the infinite complexity of nature. J.R. is a Signature member of the Montana and Colorado Watercolor Societies, with his work included regularly in juried shows across the country.

<https://www.jrmonks.com/>

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!