

Painting: Watercolor & Plants

Sky Blue Workshop
Saturdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
4-week session, September 19 – October 10, 2026
Educator: Mindy Bray, mindybray@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this 4-week class, students will explore both expressive and representational techniques in watercolor. Using seasonal, botanical subjects such as branches and flowers, students will complete drawings that incorporate texture, color, and depth. Students will learn a variety of water media techniques including mixing colors, creating washes, and building transparent vs. opaque layers. Through instruction and gallery visits, students will connect to works in the DAM's Arts of Asia Collection and look at contemporary uses of watercolor in the DAM's Modern and Contemporary Collection, including drawings by Los Carpinteros and Laura Ball.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$130/ Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160
**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 SATURDAY 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 \$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 tubes	1 set of 10	Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors – set of 10, 5 ml tubes
Watercolor brushes	1 set	Princeton Real Value Brush Set
Watercolor pad	1	Canson XL Watercolor Pad – 9" x 12"
2" bristle brush	1	Blick Mega Gesso Brush – 2"
Watercolor palette	1	Richeson 9-Well Slant Mixing Tray
Hard graphite pencils – H, 2H, and 4H	1 each	Staedtler Lumograph Drawing and Sketching Pencil
Artgum eraser	1	Prismacolor Artgum Eraser

What to Expect:

This class welcomes both beginners and students who have some drawing or painting experience. Students 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 have the option to work outdoors from life in the Sensory Garden or focus indoors on seasonal flowers, branches and leaves.

Timeline:

Week 1

- Gallery visit to the Arts of Asia Collection
- Watercolor terms and materials
- Mark making exercise

Week 2

- Introduction to color mixing
- Creating expressive washes and pours

Week 3

- View contemporary watercolors from the DAM Collection
- Layering washes to create value and depth
- Saving whites with watercolor

Week 4

- Drawing from observation
- Creating composition
- Reflection and conversation

Educator:

Mindy Bray is a painter and muralist based in Denver, CO. Her work investigates the intersection of natural and built environments through pattern, reduction, and physical space. 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, Iron-ton, and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art. She 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. Mindy is a current member of Tank Studios and serves on the board of Tilt West.

<https://www.mindybray.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. You 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!