

Proposed workshop curriculum (indoors/outdoors)
by Keiko Tanabe

Theme: How to Make Better Design in Watercolor

Venue: Studio/Plein Air, Colorado Watercolor Society

RECOMMENDED EXPERIENCE

All levels (basic knowledge & some previous experiences strongly recommended to benefit from this workshop)

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR

Keiko Tanabe, AWS, NWS, LPAPA. Often working en plein air, her atmospheric watercolors perfectly capture a sense of time and place. Through her use of color, textures, and signature brushwork, Keiko's landscapes and cityscapes, beautifully convey both the exotic and the simple scenes of the many places she travels. Never attending art school, Keiko took only one drawing class to learn basic technical skills before she started painting in 2005.

One year later, after learning basic drawing and watercolor painting skills at a local community school in San Diego, Keiko decided to paint full-time. From then on, she intensely taught herself to be fluent in watercolor painting, just as one would do to master a foreign language. Her subjects include landscape, cityscape, waterscape and interior scenes, which will be demonstrated in the workshop, using representational and impressionistic compositions. Since 2011, Keiko has completed successfully more than 400 workshops and numerous live demonstrations around the world. She has 4 DVDs and several books of her art and has been featured in many art magazines.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

No matter the subject, a painting needs a strong foundation and good design. In this workshop, Keiko will explain what to look for to make it happen. Lessons are taught through painting demonstrations and lectures for the participants to gain a better understanding of methods and techniques to make a watercolor painting that is simple yet strong. The goal is to capture the essence of the subject that conveys a certain mood and atmosphere. The process of simplification begins with visualization. In representational art, this ability to see the end result of a painting, through the mind's eye, is instrumental in realizing an artist's vision. The ability to do so and quickly is especially useful when painting en plein air but it is also quite helpful even when one paints from a photo. Through various exercises and step-by-step demonstrations, Keiko will show you how to take the initial inspiration, through the simplification process, to an expressive painting that is strong in composition and content. The introduction focuses on the fundamentals including getting to know our materials and seeing things with an artist's eye. The areas of topic covered in this

workshop include: a preliminary drawing and composition, a variety of techniques in paint application and brush handling, what makes a good design, understanding of relationship of dark and light values, planning & intuition, and how to edit complex visual information.

There will be plenty of one-on-one guidance and a question-and-answer session on a daily basis. A class critique may be conducted at the end.

ARTIST STATEMENT

When I see an interesting pattern of light and dark creating a certain mood, I stop and observe because something evocative about it inspires me and speaks to me. When I paint, I try to be as true as possible to my inspiration. When I succeed, I am treated to the magic that brushes can do – because, together with water, my brushstrokes surprise me by exposing something of my inner spirit I was not even aware of. Not an easy thing to achieve but to me, this is the ultimate moment when I can feel such a great sense of accomplishment in a painting.

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