

Abstract Landscapes in Acrylic - Beginners/Intermediate

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Class Objective:

In this class we will be experimenting with all realms of abstraction and we will use the term 'landscape' loosely as to not stifle creativity. Whether the landscapes you choose to depict are suburban landscapes, cityscapes, more traditional country or mountain-scapes, I am quite open to how you interpret the theme of this class. I am a strong believer that the more time you spend in the studio and the more time you research other artists the better your work will become. It is very important for your practice to do research and to keep a log of artists whose work you find intriguing. Let their techniques influence your work and the more you work you will begin to create your own visual language – your particular voice through paint. By the end of this class, all students will have a strong grasp of the materials used for acrylic painting,

I will have assignments throughout the class and will be judging the pace of our class in the first few weeks and will decide from there how many assignments we will have. I plan to have 3-4 assignments that aren't mandatory but will act as a guideline for the class. If you are finished an assignment before others you are welcome to start new paintings. Our assignments will cover limited colour palettes, combining images, mixed media, and self directed work.

Materials List:

- Paints: Cadmium Red Medium Cadmium Yellow Medium
 Pthalo Blue Yellow Ochre
 Cobalt Blue Burnt Umber
- These are the minimum primaries. Other colours can be added to the list.
- Brushes: 3 oil – filberts, flats or brights, synthetic brushes small #3-5, medium #5-8, large #8-12; 1 round synthetic brush #5-8
- Palette: at least 12" x 12" plastic, glass, or varnished wood (preferably with a sealed cover, ie: like plastic food container)
- 12 oz. or larger plastic container to wash brushes in
- several rags &/or paper towels
- wax paper, gel retarder
- stretched canvas or primed hardboard (size is students' choice)
- Several objects & photographs/images of things to paint

The above list is a starter list. Approximate cost \$150. If you have other acrylic paint colours, acrylic or oil brushes or other compatible materials you want to try, bring them to the classes.

What is Abstract Art?

Abstraction is a relative term because anything that is not completely representational can be abstract. Any departure from a representational form can be abstract, whether it's slight, partial, or complete abstraction. It could be said that anything that is not painstakingly realistic is abstract but for the most part abstraction is identified when forms have been altered so we question them. For example a pink oak tree or a person with a box shaped head. Complete abstraction is when nothing is recognizable.

What is a Landscape?

In this class we will be using the word landscape loosely but to clarify, the word landscape comes from the dutch word 'landschap', originally meaning a patch of cultivated land and then an image. Landscape art is usually meant to depict an specific place and often has a large patch of sky included.

Artists who deal with abstracting landscapes:

Ricky Allman	Melanie Authier	Hernan Bas
Robert Josiah Bingaman	Emily Carr	Inka Essenhigh
Martin Golland	Krisjanis Kaktins-gorsline	
Kristine Moran	Thomas Sheibitz	

Magazines to look at:

Art Forum	Art in America	Border Crossings	
Modern Painters	Flash	Frieze	Tate

- All of these magazines can be found online, for sale at McNally Robinson, or if you want to head down to the University of Manitoba you can find all of them plus old editions in the Art and Architecture library – you can sit there for hours and read them for free!

Class Blog: <http://www.forumartabstractlandscapes.blogspot.com>

This blog has been used for the previous sessions of Abstract Landscapes in Acrylic so there is past information on there but feel free to use this past information as a background for the class. You can be as active or inactive on it as you like. I want the blog to be a fun addition not something to worry about. I will post information that pertains to the class on it such as artists that I think will help with your practice, local shows to check out, and photos from the progress in our class. I will be showing all the information from the blog in class so you don't have to worry if you are not internet savvy – you will still be receiving the same information as the students who are active on the blog. The blog is just an additional way we can be in contact outside of the class and students are encouraged to comment on posts.

*Please contact me anytime with any questions, concerns, or comments you have about the class - l.mcphaden.art@gmail.com