

Amanda Hyatt Workshop



Amanda's Workshop Group



Use the mirror constantly to achieve balance



Developing the Painting



Paintings awaiting critique by Amanda

WAA organised a watercolour workshop led by Amanda Hyatt on the 5th and 6th of November. Amanda is a renowned watercolourist, who travels widely and conducts workshops in Australia and overseas.

The event was a great success attended by 15 students ranging from beginners to advanced levels, but Amanda's teaching style ensured all students were catered for.

Students painted 4 watercolours each with a different theme over the weekend. The target was to complete each painting within an hour and half - this encourages spontaneity and avoided getting bogged down. At the end of each session Amanda did a critique on all individual paintings which provided many helpful hints.

Amanda recommended students follow five principles in the development of their paintings:

Composition

Don't just paint directly from your reference piece but have a measured attitude as to how you fit elements into a scene. Delete the unnecessary and get the right proportion and balance with the remaining elements. Where possible use the golden rule to aid in composition.

Colour

An artist is inspired by the subject to develop a work of art. You don't have to paint the colour in the reference photo, but select colours that bring out your feeling for the subject. For example, using brown's rather than greens in landscapes and even use sludge from your paint tray to impart earthiness.

Tone

Get the balance of tones right to create contrast. Block in major shapes and constantly use a mirror to get the balance right in the picture. Continue to use the mirror constantly through the development of the painting. The mirror will show where the painting it is not balanced when the image is reversed.

Look for the shadows – contrasting darks and lights.

'Making' a painting through adding the magic

Add Magic by glazing and introduce more dark areas to bring light areas forward.

This also makes the picture more three dimensional in appearance.

Pulling it together

Add dots and dashes, highlights, reflections and other detail to finish off the painting.

For more detail on Amanda's methodology, look for her book – Watercolour Tonal Impressionism. (Available through Amazon)

- Amanda is running a watercolour workshop in Sicily and Tuscany from 21st August 2017 to 2nd September. For further details check Amanda's website. <http://www.paintingworkshops.net/hyatt-italy-2017.shtml>

– Colin Foster