

Stanford | Continuing Studies

Course Title: Farm to Palette: Watercolor Painting for Beginners

Course Code: ART 34

Instructor Name: Erin Gleeson

Class Schedule and Recording

Meeting days and times: Mondays, 5:30 - 7:30pm PT

Meeting location: Online (Zoom link will be provided to enrolled students closer to start date)

Class sessions will be recorded.

Course recordings will be available for three weeks after the quarter ends.

How This Course Works

The instructor will do painting demos primarily of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. They will be step-by-step and aimed at beginners. Students will be invited to follow along and do the same steps at home. This is an interactive course and students can ask questions along the way.

There will also be a simple vegetarian recipe demo during each class using some of the seasonal ingredients we have painted, and I'll share the recipe after the class.

Assignments & Coursework

There are no formal assignments. The course will culminate in students creating one slightly more complex, layered, still life painting during our final session.

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Attend, or watch the recording of, all 5 class sessions.

****Please Note:** If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Target Audience and Prerequisites

This course is for beginners with little to no experience with watercolor painting.

Learning Objectives

Students will gain an introductory knowledge of watercolor techniques and materials.

Textbooks/Required Materials

Required:

[The Watercolor Feast](#), written by the instructor, is a beginner's guide to painting produce and was the inspiration for this course. The book includes written steps of some of the tutorials we will do in class and could be a useful reference.

For each class meeting you will need the following art supplies:

- watercolor paints
- watercolor paper
- watercolor brushes
- a white plate or paint palette to mix colors on
- a paper towel and a cup of water.

Specific brands are not required. It's always best to support your local art store when possible but online links to the supplies I use are below.

Paints: [Kuretake 48-color paint set](#)

Paper (please have at least 50 sheets for this course. We will paint mostly on 5x7" postcard size paper but please also have a few sheets of larger paper on hand. Look for 140lb hot or cold press, ideally 100% cotton paper):

- [5x7" pack of Strathmore paper](#) (medium/good quality/mid-range price)
- Arches is a high quality brand and costs a bit more. I like their [9x12" pad](#).

Brushes: either this [affordable 12-pack](#) / or a higher quality [Princeton brush set](#)

Palette: I use a ceramic white side plate to mix colors on, but you may also consider a [ceramic palette](#).

Pre-class Assignment

Please have painting supplies ready for our first class meeting.

Tentative Weekly Outline

Week One

Intro to supplies and materials, abstract color exercises, intro to painting produce.

Week Two

Painting fruits, vegetables and/or flowers. Recipe Demo.

Week Three

Painting fruits, vegetables and/or flowers. Recipe Demo.

Week Four

Painting fruits, vegetables and/or flowers. Recipe Demo.

Week Five

Using what we have learned, we will create a more complex painting by letting layers dry between steps. This will be a continuation of painting fruits, vegetables and flowers, but students are invited to paint their own unique still life composition.