

2012 Paining Living This in Watercolor – Part I
2012 Spring Senior College Course
Syllabus

Charlene Buescher, Teaching Artist
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Just Imagine if you enjoyed painting small figures in your landscape! You can always trace but after you paint lots of small figures, you will skip the drawing and just enjoy painting in watercolor. I will teach you as if you have never painted before, so it's step by step for enjoyment, creativity and success.

Topics:

- 1) Getting familiar with the supplies
- 2) The background for a silhouette
- 3) A silhouette/trace and paint
- 4) Painting stick figures without drawing
- 5) Placement for figures makes composition
- 6) Painting the two brothers

Charlene Buescher's Watercolor Painting Supply List

- Brushes

Two white sable synthetic one stroke flat brushes, one of each size: ½ inch and 1 inch. I use a Windsor Newton Series 680 or Robert Simmons White Sable 1½ inch brush most of the time.

You will need one round synthetic brush in size number 6.

- Palette

A John Pike Palette; or as a substitute use an ice cube tray or a fourteen day pill container. A white plastic plate or tray is needed for a surface to mix your paint.

- Paints

Winsor Newton, Holbein or Daniel Smith tube paints in these colors:
Lemon Yellow, Yellow Ocher, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Alizarin Crimson, Opera, Thalo Blue, Ultra Marine Blue, Cerulean Blue

- Paper

Three sheets of Arches 140 lb. 22 x 30 inch cold press paper.

Cut a full sheet of 22x30 in half to become 22x15. Cut that in half to become 11x15. This is called a quarter sheet which we will use in class. We will use approximately two quarter sheets per class

- Backboard

A 12 x 16 inch backboard to hold your paper can be Plexiglas or Masonite hardboard found at hardware stores

Two bulldog clips, a white eraser, a #2 pencil, paper towels, and a water container for rinsing brushes, a spray bottle, tracing paper and some reference pictures of assorted sizes of figures and birds

Call these sources for art supplies:

www.danielsmith.com 800-426-6740

www.cheapjoes.com 800-227-2788

www.dickblick.com 800-444-8192

Charlene Buescher's Suggestions

Ask Your Self As You Are Painting:

- Is there contrast in: color, value, size, texture, and sharp/soft edges?
- Are you painting dark against light and light against dark?
- Are there any interesting negative shapes?
- Is there an off center or asymmetrical balance?
- Does the composition or motion keep your eye in the painting?
- Is there a center of interest or focal area? (where the eye lands first)
- Is there a color change: subtle, dramatic, or?
- Are there at least 3 values: lightest light – darkest dark – and multiple mid tones?
- Is there contrast in: color, value, size, texture, and sharp/soft edges?
- Is there a mood or feeling?
- Are you simply recording or using your own creativity?
- Are you painting something you really know or love or excite you?
- What do you want to say with the painting?
- Any vertical or horizontal dominance or balance?
- Is there a 3-dimensional feel through overlapping, density, size, and value?
- Are far away objects faded – no detail and small?
- Are close up objects dense, larger, and detailed?

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Is your first wash in a still life:

- Warm and cool – with some white of the paper showing through?
- Suggesting stained glass or setting a mood?
- More interesting if turned upside down?

To really “see” your work, do the following frequently:

- Set your work across the room
- Look at in the mirror
- Turn it upside down
- Place a matt around it
- Take a photo of it
- Ask a friend for an honest critique



Charles Beattie











