

Workshop Description

Light-Filled Still Life Painting- A Simple Path

Debbie Mueller

Does your heart sing when you see a light-drenched still life painting?

Do you hit roadblocks when you paint, overwhelmed by all the considerations in creating a well-designed and executed painting? Do you get stuck, not knowing what to do next?

Are you a painter who is familiar with some basic concepts and skills, such as understanding values, mixing color, and paint application?

Come join Debbie Mueller for a 3 day still life workshop where she will break down the creation of a painting into simple steps that allow the painter to focus their decision making and efforts on one thing at a time.

Day 1: A day to play and experiment without fear! After getting a chance to know each other, using a PowerPoint presentation, Debbie will introduce the steps of creating a painting- Idea, Design, Drawing, Value, Color Mixing, Brushwork and Edges. After discussing each of these topics, she will do a brief demonstration and then students will do a series of exercises to build their skills in these areas. There will be a 1 hour lunch break in the middle of the day.

Day 2: Students will use the skills they developed on Day 1 to create a still life painting. Debbie will first do a demo of a simple still life painting, reinforcing the ideas that have been presented and giving students a chance to see this process work in real time. Students will then use the rest of the day to create a painting from a simple set up. During lunch Debbie will present a slide show of inspiring artwork. Debbie will assist students at their easels.

Day 3: Students will be creating a still life painting, starting from the design stage through completion, with the opportunity to set up objects as they choose, and use their composition skills. At the conclusion of the workshop, there will be a critique where students will choose one of their paintings to discuss.

Students can expect to create two paintings during the workshop.

The techniques taught during the workshop will be practiced using still life, but are completely appropriate and useful for any subject- landscape, portrait, interiors, etc.

This is primarily an oil painting workshop. Acrylics or Gouache may be used as well, though certain techniques may not work as well with these mediums.

Debbie Mueller picked up a paintbrush for the first time in 2016 and has become an award-winning artist with recognition for both her still life and landscape paintings. She is a juried artist at the Rockport Art Association and is represented by a number of wonderful galleries in New England and Texas. She has exhibited in numerous national juried exhibitions and was the first-place winner of the Art2Life National Exhibition in 2023. She lives in Durham, NH and practices medicine in Wolfeboro, NH.

You can learn more about the artist and see her work at www.debbiemuellerart.com

Materials:

Please download the app Grid# for your phone. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/grid-add-grid-on-image/id1033011034>

Painting surface:

Please bring 2 panels or canvases for your still life paintings. I like creating square still life paintings, but students may use any shape surface they prefer. Please keep the surface on the smaller size- 10 x 10" is great- 9 x 12 if you prefer a rectangle.

Please also have at least 3 additional painting surfaces for our day of exercises. This can be a canvas pad or block, inexpensive panels or canvases, but these will be for exercises and not a finished painting.

I like a variety of surfaces, but prefer panels to stretched canvas. I use the [DaVinci Dual sided panels](#) (I use the rougher side) available at a very reasonable price from Jerry's Artarama.

I also like [Centurion linen panels](#)-the acrylic primed ones are quite reasonable and enjoyable to paint on .I've also recently started using [Masterpiece](#) oil primed linen panels and they are quite nice

Palette of your choice- you may use your own from home or bring [palette paper](#)

Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits (NO turpentine or lavender spike oil permitted)

Brushes- I use mostly long flat brushes, but you may use whatever brushes you like. You should have a couple of larger brushes, size 8-10 or ¾'-1' wide, as well as a few #6 (about ½") and perhaps a smaller liner brush for accents. I like the following brands- they have the right combination of flexibility and snap:

Princeton Aspen: <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/princeton-aspen-series-6500-synthetic-brushes>

Princeton Summit: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/princeton-summit-series-6100-white-soft-synthetic-brushes/>

Grey Matters Synthetic brushes (make sure you select synthetic, not natural bristle)
<https://www.jerrysartarama.com/grey-matters-oil-painting-natural-synthetic-brushes>

Medium: Mediums allow greater flow for the paint. You may bring any medium you prefer. I like [Liquin](#), [Galkyd](#), and [Gamblin's Solvent Free Gel](#)

Paints:

I use a fairly limited palette, basically a Split Primary palette using a warm and cool version of each of the primary colors, with a few “guest” colors for convenience. I like paint to be buttery, not stiff. The brands I really like are Michael Harding, Rembrandt, and M Graham. If you have paint already that you like, there is no need to purchase something new.

At minimum, please bring:

Transparent red oxide (any brand you choose) This will be used for the underpaintings.

Ultramarine Blue

A blue that leans toward green (Cobalt Teal, Cerulean, Manganese Blue, Sevres Blue, Prussian Blue) (This tends to be the color I use least)

Cadmium Lemon Yellow

Cadmium Yellow Medium or Deep (Should look like a school bus)

Cadmium Red Light or Vermillion

Alizarin Crimson

Titanium White

Convenience colors that are sometimes on my palette (You do not need to bring these colors)

Quinacridone Magenta (No other way to make a brilliant pink color- great for flowers)

Dioxazine Purple (Best way to get a super intense purple- great for flowers too)

Phthalo Green- Stronger tinting than Viridian, can be used to subdue reds, make a great black, and great for that color you see in the curl of waves.

Yellow Ochre- great for neutralizing purple shadow colors, a dark, neutral yellow.

Paper Towels (I'm a Viva girl!-the Signature type only)