

3-Day Composition Workshop

This workshop is for representational artists working in any media — oil, pastel, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, mixed media, and etc. We will consider both **landscape** and **still-life** compositions.

How many times have you been in the middle of a painting and realized that the composition is just not working? But by then it feels too late to try to change it. Or, do you ever look at your paintings and realize they're just... kind of boring? By the end of this workshop you will have the skills, tools, and mindset you need to design compelling compositions and avoid all that frustration and time-wasting.

During the three days:

- we will go over common compositional “tools” such as emphasis, isolation, convergence and asymmetry.
- you will practice making Value Studies, using different methods such as grisaille, markers, pencil sketching, and painting.
- we'll discuss Notans and their usefulness, and practice making them.
- the emphasis will be on learning fast, simple ways to come up with good compositions.
- you will learn how to use Composition to help the viewer connect to your work at an emotional level.

You will work from your own photos, and, depending on the weather, you will also do some plein air painting around the Art Club. And you will revisit some of your past work.

Materials List:

All your usual paints and gear, plus:

- Raw Umber paint
- White paint
- A large paintbrush (at least 1/2”)
- Viewfinder

- Sketchbook, any size
- A thick, black Sharpie
- A range of drawing pencils from dark to light
- Tracing paper
- A few clear acetate sheets
- Masking tape
- Inexpensive supports, such as gessoed paper, canvas paper, canvas sheets, or small canvases or panels. You could also gesso over some of your old, not-very-good paintings. (I have plenty of those if you need them.)
- A smartphone or tablet if you have one.