

What a privilege to sponsor a workshop conducted by an exceptional artist/instructor like Joseph Cibere, a signature member of the National Watercolor Society among other things! He believes that "Watercolor painting is the easiest medium to paint with! You only have to paint half a painting and let the medium paint itself", especially painting Imaginary Landscapes in Abstract Realism, which was the theme of our VHAA Zoom Workshop on Saturday November 28th!



The entire workshop was an explorations and studies of several concepts, elements and techniques for which Joe had sent to every attendant a PDF file of instructions on what to expect and how to be prepared in advance. Prior to the workshop, students prepared three 11"x 14" sheets of watercolor papers, each with swatches of rectangle and square divisions with masking tape. Each sheet was used in sequence order to emphasize the elements and concepts such as value, composition, perspective and the "three D's - Drawing, Design, and Desire" as an inspiration to creating a balance painting.



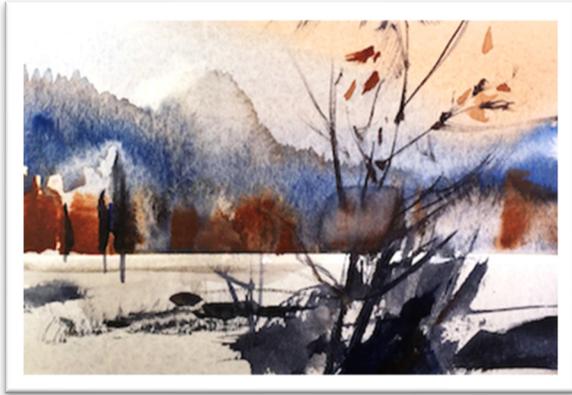
First Lesson - One Color Value Study: This lesson forces you to simplify the larger areas in a landscape into simple geometric shapes rather than the real life scenery. Working with only one color, Paines Gray or Prussian Blue, start with the largest area to paint the darkest pigment, then proceed with adding more water to the paint for the medium values, and the lightest value would be least amount of pigment on the brush. This study creates the illusion of depth, thus creating perspective in your image such as

foreground, middle ground, and back ground in each of the six 3" squares.

Second Lesson - Two Color Study:

In this segment of the workshop, Joe stressed the application of one warm color such as Burnt Sienna and a cool color such as Ultramarine Blue or any brown and blue would work. The main theme of these exercises was the technique of paint application such as wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, and dry-on-dry, on a slanted watercolor pad on the masked 2" x 3" rectangles.





On each swatch Joe wet the top 2/3 with water first, then with a brush loaded with blue paint he applied it with one stroke horizontally across from left to right at the top which bled downward. Then he did the same with the brown paint applying it under the blue with one stroke of the brush to create the illusion of land or trees. The bottom third he applied a watered-down combination of the two colors leaving a gap between the top

and bottom wet-on-dry wash, also leaving white areas to emphasize light reflections. The final finishing touches were the adding imaginary details such as trees, rocks, driftwood, etc. with wet on dry surface.

The Last Lesson - Color Play: This exercise explored how combinations of three or four colors in each swatch working with wet-on-dry strokes, seeing how colors bled together to create a miniature imaginary landscape. As each one dried, Joe added details to further define clarity of the landscape while looking at a sample handout with 12 landscape paintings.

During each exercise students were "Hands-On", painting along with Joe as he demonstrated and, as he explained that, painting in this manner is all about the timing of how and when you apply the paint, whether it's wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, or dry-on-dry! Also, his motto to painting is: "Failure is you friend as you learn from your mistakes. Fear of failure is your enemy. Therefore the more you do these studies the more you improve!"

