

The Observation of Birds in Graphite & Watercolour

Southampton Art School – May 22, 23 & 24

COURSE OUTLINE

One of the reasons for the growing popularity of bird watching in Ontario is the role of groups like the Friends of MacGregor Point Provincial Park who provide continued support so that many people can visit and enjoy this protected area along the shores of Lake Huron. In this unique workshop Michael will guide you through step-by-step projects including graphite drawing with subtle watercolour washes and full watercolour bird paintings. The workshop is perfect for any level of art experience and will suit both casual nature lovers and serious ornithologists alike.

Day one: The first day of the workshop will focus on drawing techniques and exploring the potential of graphite as a medium for bird and nature drawing. The Red-breasted Nuthatch (or similar subject) will be the focus of the day.

Day two: will move on to full watercolour painting – including the Indigo Bunting (or similar) as a project. Michael will introduce many interesting watercolour techniques, including spray painting a background, mixing accurate colours, masking the subject and realistic drybrushing and glazing for detail.

Day three: will continue with another subject for watercolour painting, this time a Common Redpoll (or similar), shown as more of an illustrative bird portrait.

MATERIAL LIST

- 3 sheets Fabriano 300 lb hot-pressed watercolour paper (cut to 10.5 x 15 inches) (Buy one sheet and cut to size)
- 3 Masonite boards 12 x 16 inches
- 1 Sheet of graphite transfer paper
- Low-tac masking tape
- Blending stumps / tortillons
- Erasers: kneaded eraser, Paper Mate Eraser Stick, Mono Zero (Tombow) round tip eraser
- Graphite pencils: 6H, 2H, H, F & 2B
- Scissors
- Xacto knife (with a new blade)

Watercolour Materials:

- 2 containers for water (small jars or margarine tubs are suitable)

- White enamel palette or plate
- Paper towel
- Watercolour Spray Bottle
- Daniel Smith Fine Line Artist Masking Fluid Applicator
- Masking fluid (or rubber cement) pick-up

Paints: Winsor & Newton

(Or bring whatever watercolour paints, brushes and materials you have available)

- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow Pale
- Sap Green
- Ultramarine Blue
- Alizarin Crimson
- Payne's Grey
- Cobalt Blue
- Black
- Burnt Sienna
- Burnt Umber

Paints: Daniel Smith

- Manganese Blue Hue

Brushes

- Curry's #1 pointed brush
- Escoda #2 pointed brush
- Escoda #6 pointed brush

Faber-Castell Polychromos Coloured Pencils

- FC 101 White
- FC 199 Black
- FC 145 Pthalo Blue

THERE WILL ALSO BE A \$6 FEE PAYABLE TO THE INSTRUCTOR FOR THE COLOURED PAGE HANDOUTS FOR THREE PROJECTS