

Who Can Resist Nests (especially on Earth Day)?!

Class Description: This watercolor class will be held on Earth Day, a day to honor the earth and the marvels of nature.

Aristotle said, "In all things in nature there is something of the marvelous" and few things are as marvelous as bird's nests! For this class we'll study nests and their intricate construction then we'll paint them using layers of watercolor wash and resists. We'll gain an understanding of a few different ways of masking or using a resists. We'll begin with a wet into wet approach, perhaps some spattering, a bit of dry brush and consider other ways we can play with watercolor. We'll work on two paintings at once to allow for drying time. One will be a detailed study of the amazing texture and interweaving of grasses, sticks, leaves and other found items while the other will have more of a design focus and incorporate leaf shadows and negative space with a nest. Through observation and the use of watercolor, we'll learn to really look at some of nature's most exquisite handiwork as we create our own art and realize that nests are works of art as well.

When: Saturday, April 22, 2023 9 AM- 3 PM, 12:00 lunch at PAC

Objectives:

- Improve observational skills through drawing and painting from life
- Learn to use a variety of resists (masks)
- Acquire skills with a variety of watercolor painting techniques
- Practice mixing colors to produce beautiful neutral tones
- Become comfortable with watercolor experimentation
- Develop an appreciation of watercolor accidents and how they can be useful
- Creatively paint natural objects by selectively using a mix of techniques
- Observe, critique and discuss student work and master watercolors
- Gain a greater appreciation of the wonder all around us

Materials students will need to bring: Fine line masking fluid pen available from Blick or Amazon, watercolor set(an inexpensive tray is fine but a set of tubes with palette is great, too), variety of round brushes, such as a 2-3,5-6,10-12 or at least a detail brush and a larger one, perhaps a rigor but I'll have several different brushes to try as well, watercolor block or pad(at least 140 lb, 9 x 12 or larger) or a few sheets with a gator foam board for stapling or some other support or 300 lb paper which doesn't need mounting, hot or cold press or even rough can work, jar or two for water, spray bottle, sponge or two, nest if you have one but I have plenty of beautiful nests

Materials provided by instructor: gorgeous nests, variety of papers to look at and experiment with, lots of different brushes, sample works, masking film and other masks to try

Set-up needs: tables and chairs, two chairs on each side of the tables, 9 large tables, 8 for students and one for instructor, tv or large monitor or screen with HDMI connector for my laptop to display examples, easel or two for display