

Painted Feasts: An Introduction to Watercolour

Dates	Saturday 5 December 2021
Times	11.00–16.30
Location	Zoom Meeting
Level	All Levels



Pieter de Ring, *Still Life with Parrot*, c.1645-c.1660 (detail)

Course Description

Learn the fundamentals of watercolour painting on this online creative course. We'll take inspiration from the Wallace Collection's outstanding 17th-century Dutch still life paintings, portraying sumptuous banquets and other seasonal scenes of abundance. Throughout the course you'll be introduced to different techniques for using watercolour effectively, including dry-brush, flat-wash and glazing, as well as methods for achieving the best water-to-paint ratios.

Our day will start with an exploration of the still life genre itself, and how artists have composed these often intricate assemblages. Working from image references, you'll be taken through a series of guided exercises – first to create a monochromatic painting of a single object that focuses on depth and light, followed by a more complex painting reproduction based on an artwork from the Collection. In the afternoon, through a more sustained guided exercise, you will paint a composition from real life using simple elements from your own kitchen – be that fruit and vegetables, a kettle and mug, tins of beans or any group of objects you have to hand.

The outcome of our course is to help you develop specific skills in using watercolour paints, as well as gaining a broad understanding of how light, colour and symbolism are critical to still life painting.

Course Tutor

Luisa Rivera is a London-based illustrator originally from Chile. In 2012 she obtained a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She has published several picture books, including editions of Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Luisa has worked with major clients including Air Canada, Google, Penguin Random House, *The New York Times*, *Variety* magazine, *O The Oprah Magazine*, and Reservoir Books, among others.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is open to anyone who has an interest in watercolour and connecting with works of art through painting. Those with experience in watercolour will take away new ideas and approaches for developing their practice and beginners will gain new skills and confidence. A willingness to experiment and find enjoyment in your painting will help you get the most out of the course.

Materials and Equipment

We encourage participants to use the following materials but each exercise can be undertaken with a more limited range:

- A set of watercolour paints, preferably in 12 hues
- A round brush, sized between #5 and #10
- A liner brush, sized either #1 or #2
- Two separate cups/containers for water
- A mixing palette, to accommodate puddles for washes
- Paper towels, for cleaning and lifting wet colour
- An HB or 2H drawing pencil, and eraser
- A3 watercolour paper pad or loose sheets, 300 gsm weight and 'cold-pressed' texture (not textured)

An additional note on paper: we recommend you avoid 'hot-pressed' paper unless you have used it before. We suggest you use a watercolour paper pad that is glued on all four sides, so there is no need to stretch the paper in advance. If you are using loose sheets, you may wish to stretch the paper on a board to prevent buckling. [See here](#) for simple instructions on stretching paper for watercolour.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through Zoom. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit www.zoom.us/support.

The overall course duration is five-and-a-half hours. This includes a two-hour morning session, leading to a lunch break of 30 minutes at approximately 13.00. The afternoon session will last three hours. Participants are free to take short comfort/refreshment breaks throughout the day.

Participants will be emailed the Zoom Meeting ID and Password 48 hours in advance of the course session.
