

The Artist Outdoors

Dates Tuesdays 6, 13 and 20 July 2021

Times 11.00–13.00

Location Zoom Webinar

Tutor Alikí Braine

Level All Levels



Ruisdael, *Rocky Landscape*, 1650s (detail)

Course Description

While *plein-air* painting came into its own with the art of the Impressionists, the tradition of making images of landscapes outside is one that can be traced back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Indeed, Karel van Mander, in 1604, encouraged artists to go to the countryside: 'There we will look at many views, all of which will help us to create a landscape...'.

This course will trace the historical practice of making landscape paintings outdoors, tracing its development in the late 16th century to Impressionism, and explore the relationship artists have had with the landscape they have depicted.

Session One: All the World a Stage

Our course begins by looking at how landscape first became an independent subject. Images of the outdoors were initially used as a stage on which to set narrative images, manipulating space and atmospheric conditions to enhance storytelling. Looking at the works of Bellini, Patinir, Leonardo, Bruegel and Dürer, we will look at how landscape was used to sustain narrative and question what prompted artists to go out of doors in order to seek a subject.

Session Two: Escape to the Country

In our second week, we'll focus on the developments of landscape painting in the 17th century, paying particular attention to the production of the large, personal landscapes of Peter Paul Rubens to coincide and celebrate the Wallace Collection's exhibition *Rubens: Reuniting the Great Landscapes*. We'll explore and compare how the aesthetic conventions of landscape painting were established in this period simultaneously in Rome, and in Northern Europe, and study the works of Claude, Rubens and Ruisdael.

Session Three: Marking the Spot

The final session of our course will look at how landscape painting embraced and was affected by the developments of modernity and industrialisation. We will explore how new technologies impacted and encouraged the practice of *plein-air* painting, and how artists increasingly recorded or ignored the changing face of the land in this period. We will focus on the birth of romantic and impressionistic landscape and looking at the works of Turner, Constable, Monet and Pissarro.

Course Tutor

Aliki Braine studied at The Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford, The Slade School of Fine Art, London and The Courtauld Institute where she was awarded a distinction for her masters in 17th-century painting. Aliki has been a regular lecturer at the National Gallery since 2001 and also teaches at the Courtauld Gallery and for The Arts Society. She is an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Fine Art Photography for the University of the Arts London. Aliki is also a practicing artist who regularly exhibits her photographic work internationally.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

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

Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and Q&A session with the tutor.

Tickets are for all three dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 48 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing all three sessions.
