

Drawing into Watercolour

Dates	Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 November 2023
Times	10.30-16.30 GMT
Location	At the museum
Tutors	Karly Allen and Jo Lewis
Level	All Levels



Richard Parkes Bonington, *Venice: the Piazzetta*, about 1826 to 1827

Course Description

Master the creative possibilities of pencil and watercolour. Taking inspiration from our free display of watercolour landscapes by JMW Turner and Richard Parkes Bonington, you'll investigate how these materials can be used to convey a sense of place, atmosphere, and personal connection to a subject. Our emphasis will be on experimentation and discovery, through close study of masterpieces in watercolour, quick-fire exercises, and longer periods to practise new approaches.

By the end of the weekend, you'll have completed a number of watercolour sketches and gained confidence in using watercolour to respond to landscapes in the museum and in nature.

Saturday

Our masterclass begins with the simplicity of pencil: how can we modulate speed, pressure and scale to create a variety of marks and qualities of line? We'll look at how Turner and Bonington used pencil to establish basic outlines and composition, before exploring how pencil interacts with water and wet media. You'll become familiar with diluting ink to mix grades of tone and working with white bodycolour, in preparation for your experiments in watercolour on Sunday.

Sunday

On Sunday our focus will be on watercolour painting. Through close observation of the watercolours by Turner and Bonington, we'll explore how to use this versatile medium, from brushwork and making washes to capturing light and building space. You'll experiment with different colour mixing techniques while building a limited yet effective palette. By the end of the day, you'll be able to create your own landscapes and develop a more personal approach to using watercolour.

Course Tutors

Karly Allen is a drawing tutor and lecturer in art history. A graduate of the Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford and SOAS, University of London, she has led workshops and developed learning programmes for national art collections for over 20 years, including the National Gallery, Courtauld Gallery, V&A and National Portrait Gallery. Karly enriches her teaching with her training as a mindfulness teacher and, as co-director of Limina Collective, contributes to the emerging field of mindfulness in museums. She specialises in approaches to looking and drawing in art collections, the history of the sketch aesthetic, and drawing to promote wellbeing and connection.

Jo Lewis is an artist and educator. Jo trained at the University of Edinburgh and the École des Beaux-Arts, Valence. In her work, Jo uses ink and watercolour on paper, frequently working outside in rivers. Jo has exhibited in the UK and France and has been commissioned and collected by institutions including Hermès, Barclays Bank, More London Collection of Contemporary Art, Raffles Hotels, Ripple USA, Ashstead Hospital and Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Recent exhibitions include solo shows in London and Lyon and group shows in Paris. Jo has taught on projects for the National Gallery since 2002, is a guest lecturer at the London Film School since 2010, and at the Paris College of Art since 2020.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

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

Equipment and Materials

All materials and equipment are provided.

Joining Information and Format

This masterclass will take place in the Learning Studio, Lower Ground Floor at the museum. It includes visits to the free display *Turner and Bonington: Watercolours from the Wallace Collection* during the event.
