

2024 / 2025 Watercolor Workshops

Detailed Course Descriptions



- *Signature PLUS - 4 Day* ... Loose & Romantic Watercolor Workshop
- *Signature 3 Day* ... Loose & Romantic Watercolor Workshop
- **FIREHOSE!** *2 Day* ... Loose & Romantic Watercolor Workshop
- *1 Day* ... Drawing Techniques For Romantic Watercolor Art
- *1 Day* ... Mastering 4 Value Watercolor with Monochrome Painting
- *1 Day* ... Adding Romantic Details to A Watercolor Painting



2024 / 2025 Watercolor Workshops

Course Descriptions



Leo Kahl - *Signature PLUS* - 4 Day.....Loose & Romantic Watercolor Workshop

A comprehensive, nearly week long immersion into all aspects of watercolor relative to producing mood rich, dramatically lit, loose and romantic imagery *in the style of this artist.*

This **extended workshop** includes a special, full day, dedicated to developing the simplified drawings and narratives necessary to tell a romantic story. Students will be engaged with multi-media presentations that include six drawing practice scenes with tips on properly translating a sketch onto final watercolor paper.

Course Details & Daily Schedule:

Day 1: Morning Session: Bring your coffee as we start off with an entertaining, animated slide presentation. This presentation introduces important information relevant to remainder of workshop. We'll cover a history of the medium, along with essential ideas about creating "light" within a painting and other characteristics of great watercolor art. We will also cover all of the "**tangible tools**" associated with watercolor and "why" they are so crucial to obtaining desirable results. Next, we'll identify and discuss key "**intangible tools**" that allow us to properly build a watercolor painting. These include application ideas such as graded washes, form from shadows, dry-brush, texture, jewelry and highlights. Students will spend balance of morning session practicing these "intangible tools".

Afternoon Session: Immediately after lunch, we'll begin with a quick presentation focused on the paramount concept of "**VALUE Delineation**" in a watercolor painting and why it is a keystone idea essential to successful watercolor painting. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate a monochrome painting focusing on how value is used to methodically create volume and "un-muddy" paintings that "pop". Students will replicate process painting a monochromatic scene.

Day 2: Morning Session: Bring your coffee again as we start off with a short presentation about the process of developing the base drawing & "**COMPOSITION**" for your watercolor paintings. **A resolved, thoughtful, design sketch can be the difference in a watercolor painting.** Students will spend the entire day learning to distill scenes into simple shapes as opposed to "things" while concurrently planning for light & shadow patterns, edge treatments between shapes and "story" development.

Day 3: Morning Session: Bring your coffee again as we'll begin the day with a short presentation that explores ways to utilize "**COLOR**" to suggest the mood and ambiance of your subject. Special emphasis will be placed on simplifying color theories and utilizing limited areas of the color wheel. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate his painting process in a full color project with students replicating each step of the process to complete a painting.

Afternoon Session: Immediately after lunch, we'll begin with a brief presentation demonstrating the concept of "**EDGES**" between disparate shapes within the paintings composition. This concept is routinely misunderstood and under utilized. Understanding "**how**" to achieve a variety of "**differing**" edges in your painting will immediately elevate them in stature. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate a painting using differing edges with students replicating each step of the exercise to complete a painting.

Day 4: Morning Session: A very brief presentation illustrates the significance of adorning your painting with "**JEWELRY**" (details) and "**HIGHLIGHTS**". This often neglected aspect of watercolor will enliven and enrich your paintings to no end! Students will sequentially replicate instructors morning demo painting.

Afternoon Session: Students are encouraged to work on any scene they'd like, employing all of the painting concepts previously presented. Instructor will assist each student. A final group critique of each students work will complete a fun filled four days of learning!



105 S. Newport Way • Dagsboro, DE 19939
Ph: 410-842-3369
Email: leokahlwatercolors@gmail.com
Website: www.leokahlwatercolors.com

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Course Descriptions



Leo Kahl - *Signature* 3 Day... Loose & Romantic Watercolor Workshop

A comprehensive, deep immersion into all aspects of watercolor relative to producing mood rich, dramatically lit, loose and romantic imagery *in the style of this artist.*

Course Details & Daily Schedule:

Day 1: Morning Session: Bring your coffee as we start off with an entertaining, animated slide presentation. This presentation introduces important information relevant to remainder of workshop. We'll cover a history of the medium, along with essential ideas about creating "light" within a painting and other characteristics of great watercolor art. We will also cover all of the "**tangible tools**" associated with watercolor and "why" they are so crucial to obtaining desirable results. Next, we'll identify and discuss key "**intangible tools**" that allow us to properly build a watercolor painting. These include application ideas such as gradated washes, form from shadows, dry-brush, texture, jewelry and highlights. Students will spend balance of morning session practicing these "intangible tools".

Afternoon Session: Immediately after lunch, we'll begin with a quick presentation focused on the process of developing a base drawing & "**COMPOSITION**" for your watercolor paintings. **A resolved, thoughtful, design sketch can be the difference in a watercolor painting.** Students will spend the afternoon learning to distill scenes into simple shapes as opposed to "things" while concurrently planning for light & shadow patterns, edge treatments between shapes and "story" development.

Day 2: Morning Session: We'll begin the morning with a quick presentation focused on the paramount concept of "**VALUE**" **Delineation** in a watercolor painting and why it is a keystone idea essential to successful watercolor painting. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate a monochrome painting focusing on how value is used to methodically create volume and "un-muddy" paintings that "pop". Students will replicate process painting a monochromatic scene.

Afternoon Session: Immediately after lunch, we'll examine a short presentation that explores ways to utilize "**COLOR**" to suggest the mood and ambiance of your subject. Special emphasis will be placed on simplifying color theories and utilizing limited areas of the color wheel. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate his painting process in a full color project with students replicating each step of the process to complete a painting.

Day 3: Morning Session: The final morning begins with a brief presentation demonstrating the concept of "**EDGES**" between disparate shapes within the paintings composition. This concept is routinely misunderstood and under utilized. Understanding "**how**" to achieve a variety of "**differing**" edges in your painting will immediately elevate them in stature. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate a painting using differing edges with students replicating each step of the exercise to complete a painting.

Afternoon Session: A very brief presentation illustrates the significance of adorning your painting with "**JEWELRY**" (details) and "**HIGHLIGHTS**". This often neglected aspect of watercolor will enliven and enrich your paintings to no end! Students can replicate instructors afternoon demo **OR** work on any scene they'd like employing all of the painting concepts previously presented. Instructor will assist each student.

A final group critique of each students work will complete a fun filled three days of learning!



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Leo Kahl - FIREHOSE! 2 Day ... Loose & Romantic Watercolor Workshop

An informative, fast paced introduction to the key foundational cornerstones of competent watercolor art. A **"secret formula"** utilized by the instructor is demonstrated and practiced by students over the course of two days.

Course Details & Daily Schedule:

Day 1: Morning Session: Bring your coffee as we start off with an entertaining, animated slide presentation. This presentation introduces important information relevant to remainder of workshop. We'll discuss essential ideas about creating "light" within a painting and other characteristics of great watercolor art. We will also cover all of the **"tangible tools"** associated with watercolor and "why" they are so crucial to obtaining desirable results. Next, we'll identify and discuss key **"intangible tools"** that allow us to properly build a watercolor painting. These include application ideas such as graded washes, form from shadows, dry-brush, texture, jewelry and highlights. Students will spend balance of morning session practicing these "intangible tools".

Afternoon Session: Immediately after lunch, we'll begin with a quick presentation focused on the process of developing a base drawing & **"COMPOSITION"** for your watercolor paintings. **A resolved, thoughtful, design sketch can be the difference in a watercolor painting.**

Instructor will demonstrate a painting in a **"step by step"** manner allowing students time to replicate each step of the process.

Day 2: Morning Session: We'll begin the morning with a quick presentation focused on the paramount concept of **"VALUE Delineation"** in a watercolor painting and why it is a keystone idea essential to successful watercolor painting. Instructor will sequentially demonstrate a monochrome painting focusing on how value is used to methodically create volume and **"un-muddy"** paintings that "pop". Students will replicate process by painting a monochromatic scene.

Afternoon Session: Immediately after lunch, we'll examine a short presentation that explores ways to utilize **"COLOR"** to suggest the mood and ambiance of your subject.

The not so **"Secret Watercolor Formula"** utilized by the instructor will also be presented at this point.

Instructor will demonstrate a painting using the **"Secret Formula"** with students replicating each step of the process.

Day two ends with quick critiques of each students work with the class.



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Leo Kahl - 1 Day... "Drawing Techniques For Romantic Watercolor Art"

Executing a successful and pleasing watercolor painting requires a **well planned, strategically thought out composition**. This essential step often impedes students watercolor efforts. This class is designed to simplify this process and give students confidence when developing a scene as well as when painting.

Class topics and practice will include:

- Simplification of reference photos
- Drawing on location
- Developing compositions based on background, middle ground, foreground and focal area.
- Inventing a story
- Arranging big, medium & small shapes
- Adding figures to a scene
- Transference of sketch to watercolor paper
- Using projectors
- Creating preliminary thumbnail sketches
- Specifically Planning to take advantage of watercolor attributes
- Tracing photographs

Leo Kahl - 1 Day... "Mastering 4 Value Watercolor with Monochrome Painting"

A complete understanding of what value actually means and how it underpins a competent watercolor painting is thoroughly examined. **Students who strongly desire to improve their watercolor skills will benefit greatly from this class.**

Class topics and practice will include:

- Seeing the world in just four levels of value.
- Using a **four value / four layer painting formula** to manage and exploit the medium
- Using value to create volume
- Using value to create depth within a painting
- How clear value delineation creates **"un-muddy"** dynamic paintings that **"pop"**



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Leo Kahl - 1 Day... "Adding Romantic Details to A Watercolor Painting"

An extremely beneficial **"last step"** to most watercolor paintings is to adorn it with opaque details. Often referred to as **"Jewelry"**, this technique will elevate and **"enliven"** a painting in many ways.

Class topics and practice will include:

- Using watercolor in an opaque manner via dry-brush techniques
- Why opaque paint creates depth and pleasing disparity within a watercolor painting.
- Adding figures to a scene
- Adding graphical elements to attract viewers eye to focal area
- Using complimentary colored details to draw attention to focal area
- Connect different ares of the painting
- Exploiting dry-brush with purposeful, expressive brushwork.
- Adding strategically placed highlights to attract viewers eye.
- "Rubbing out" to create point light sources.



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