

Kimberly Kelly Santini: Pencil to Brush: Knitting Together Line, Color and Form

2 Day Workshop – Wednesday and Thursday September 18 and 19, 2024, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Kim will share some favorite mixed media painting based techniques. Students will learn how to incorporate dry media with acrylic paints and mediums, working in layers and embracing intuitive response. They will learn about associative thinking and how to plug in to their personal inclinations. The ideal student will be comfortable drawing freehand and have basic color mixing knowledge. This is a fast paced class with plenty of hands on painting, but also includes reflection and group conversation. The overall focus will be on idea sharing and getting starts down. There is no expectation to finish a piece but students can expect to leave with a solid start, an actionable plan and lots of fodder.

Participants begin with simple drawings which will then be attacked and rebuilt. My demos will be animal centric, but any objective subject matter is welcome (whatever the individual student feels most competent in). These drawings will become the basis for painted compositions and additional studies.

Topics will include

- Working directly
- Working from memory
- Historied mark making
- Simplification of form
- Intuitive painting
- Starting from an emotional place
- Disrupted realism strategies
- Reference photo vs resource photos

Techniques include

- contour drawing
- surface manipulation
- collage
- altering tube paints (changing viscosity and opacity, glazing)
- painting directly
- additive and subtractive mark making
- working with a wet palette system
- expression vs representation
- digital drawing as a means of finding direction (I use procreate on my iPad)

Presentations will be both prerecorded and live.

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DAY 1: Initial prerecorded demo and Q&A

- Shorter demos kick off the exercises, followed by insightful discussion.
- Content will build upon what's already been presented.
- At the end of the day discussion of work created, basic goal setting for next day.

DAY 1 goal – an overview of my full process, from seed to execution. Participants will work on their drawings/painted studies and explore various media. They will also have some reflection time designed to help identify details, colors, objects to weave into their drawings.

DAY 2: Initial prerecorded demo and Q&A

- Group discussion/design planning based on prior day's work.
- Participants will have 2 blocks of time to paint independently, punctuated by a short break to discuss progress.
- At the end of the day discussion of work created, building an action plan.

DAY 2 goal - Participants will learn to respond to their drawings, practice associative thinking, and translate subject matter beyond literal representation. They will work directly and responsively, having a conversation with their work as it evolves. Students will have progression on at least one painting.

BIO

Kimberly Santini was formally educated as a painter, with a BFA in Painting and a BA in Art History but worked a traditional career path for over a decade. She set up a home studio in 2001 and began with commissioned portraiture. In 2006 she committed to daily painting, a creative practice she continues today. Santini brought her unique voice to the easel with an unparalleled sense of color and spontaneity. She was honored as the official artist of the 2015 Kentucky Derby, has worked with the AKC on poster artwork, designed a wine label, and has hung solo shows across the country. A firm believer in community involvement, Santini has also held leadership roles with the Romeo Guild of Art and The Detroit Society of Women Painters & Sculptors.

Since the onset of Covid, Santini has been channeling her spirit guides as painting subjects, working in a series she's titled "The Talisman." She weaves synchronicities in her life with the animals she dreams of and encounters in other ways. The pieces are layered with expressive brushwork, imaginative color, and delightful collisions of her

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choosing (like a rabbit as a snow globe or foxes brimming with flowers). They reference both internal and external landscapes in vistas that have roots in an ethereal world.

She maintains a well of online resources, including an active social media presence of in-process and behind the scene details ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)). Santini continues to blog multiple times weekly, and her entire body of work including over a decade of daily paintings is archived at www.PaintingaDogaDay.com. Originals are available via [gallery representation](#) or directly through the artist. Prints, reproductions and textiles can be ordered and shipped directly via [online vendors](#). She has written and self-published a number of [books](#) as well. Santini [mentors and teaches style discovery](#) online, and live streamed free art journaling lessons during the first 18 months of the pandemic. In her [online classroom](#) (Patreon) students get an exclusive behind-the-scenes peek into both mental and physical processes, along with studio management guidance.

The artist makes her home in Lake Orion, Michigan, where she lives and works in a home filled with fairy dust and laughter. She has three children (four if you count her husband), adult in age if not demeanor (the apple doesn't fall far from the tree). There is a herd of family pets, as well, which at the moment includes a host of rescues - 2 dogs, 2 cats, a pony sized rabbit, and one very sassy hamster. She also thoroughly enjoys the wildlife that visits her yard - and her dreams.

<https://www.kimberlysantini.com/about>