



Friday 29th – Sunday 31st May

Pastel and Gouache working in Unison
with Richard Suckling



In this three day workshop we will be exploring how we can combine strong gouache under-paintings with bold expressive pastel layers, showcasing how these two perfectly matched mediums can be combined to make expressive contemporary paintings. We will look at both the creative aspects of this mixed media approach as well as the importance of technique and the processes required to make this marriage of mediums work successfully. This course is suitable for pastel and mixed media students or students of other mediums looking to loosen up and try something a little different. There will be demonstrations of a variety of subjects during the three days to illustrate the adaptability of this mixed media approach and the course will have something to offer for artists of all abilities.

Materials List

1. A selection of soft pastels, I use Unison, Sennelier, Girault and Schmincke but any artist quality soft pastel will be ideal. Half stick sets of pastels are a good and more economical way of starting if this is your first time using them. Most of the pastel brands I mentioned above offer half stick sets from twenty colours right up to a hundred and twenty but for our purposes between twenty and thirty colours will suffice.
2. Gouache or acrylic gouache can be used for this course. A basic small selection of colours for mixing is all you need. I personally favour Schminke traditional gouache and Windsor and Newton designer gouache but there are numerous brands available. Just ensure that the word gouache appears in the description as it is this that guarantees that it will dry to a nice matt finish.
3. A selection of brushes just whatever you have to hand in the studio but go for your bigger sizes to encourage larger looser mark making. Anything suitable for watercolour or acrylic will do the job just fine.
4. Paper must be able to tolerate mixed media so any of the following will work. Canson Velvet, Canson Touch, Sennelier Multi media pastel card, Uart, Pastelmat, and Colourfix. You can also watercolour paper but this will not hold as much pastel unless specially prepared or primed boards using acrylic gesso or pastel primer.
5. Masking tape
6. Paint palette
7. Wet wipes / baby wipes
8. Small spray bottle filled with either isopropyl alcohol or water