

Susan Abbott

Vermont Landscape Painting Retreats

Session 1: August 13th-August 18th, 2019

Session 2_ August 21st to 26th, 2019

(Evening meeting first day, followed by 5 full painting days)



Susan Abbott, "Adelaide's Pond"

Join artist and international workshop instructor Susan Abbott in beautiful rural Vermont for an intensive landscape painting retreat. The class will focus on painting plein air in the fields, farms, and gardens of this famed rural countryside. The class also includes daily sessions in the studio, where we'll work on composition and color using Susan's extensive library and slides as resources. There will be ample time for personal instruction and critiques. This art retreat will send you home inspired, and with new skills as a landscape painter.

Students can work in watercolor, oil, acrylic or pastel. Instruction is in watercolor and oil. New plein air painters are welcome, some prior painting experience in the medium you're bringing is required. Class size is limited to fourteen.

Cost: \$595.

The \$595. fee includes five days studio and plein air instruction (9:00 am-5:30 pm); dessert get-together first evening; daily beverages, snacks, and wine with

critiques; five delicious homemade gourmet lunches. (Not included in fee: transportation, lodging, breakfast and dinners.)

\$595. fee returned with the registration form at the end of this document will reserve your place.

Location

Susan Abbott's 1850's farmhouse and studio are settled in the woods and meadows of northern Vermont, above the town of Plainfield, and across a country road from the six hundred acre Marshfield Town Forest.

Twenty minutes away is Montpelier, the smallest state capital, a charming and lively town with restaurants, bookstores, shops, theaters and an art supply store.



Susan's studio and garden

Workshop activities

The workshop is a combination of studio classes and plein air painting, with Susan teaching innovative approaches to color and composition indoors, and then taking those lessons outside to work directly from the landscape.

The main topics the workshop focuses on are: selecting a "paintable" plein air subject, drawing quickly, designing with darks and lights, using color value and temperature, composing with color, and improving painting technique. We'll look at many examples of landscape painting, from British watercolor to the Impressionists and contemporary artists.

Because of our small class size, Susan will be available to work with each student personally, helping you to develop an individual direction in your work, and answering your questions on approaches to landscape, and other aspects of your painting. She will instruct and demonstrate in both oils and watercolors.

Daily Schedule

9:00 am: arrive at Susan's studio

9:00-9:30 am: coffee and discussion on focus for the day

9:45-12:45 pm: plein air painting session at a nearby site

1:00-1:45 pm: healthy gourmet lunch (prepared with fresh ingredients from her garden and local farms by Susan's husband, an excellent cook!)

2:00-4:30 pm: plein air painting session or studio session (depending on the weather) continuing with the day's painting focus

4:30-5:30 pm: wine, snacks and critique of our day's work in the studio



One of many lovely painting sites near Susan's studio

Plein air painting sites

Vermont is world famous for its unique blend of charming villages, small-scale family farms, and scenic back roads. All of these attractions are a short drive from Susan's studio, and are wonderful subjects for paintings. The weather this time of year is generally fine for outside work, with low humidity, clear skies, warm temperatures, and flowers in bloom. Susan's studio has ample space for critiques and classes should we have some rainy weather.

Supplies

In the studio we'll be doing faster exercises, so watercolor, gouache or acrylic will work well. Outdoors you can choose oils, watercolor, pastel, or acrylic. An easel will be necessary for painting outside. If you are new to plein air, Susan will be happy to advise you on what you'll need. She'll be sending a complete supply list to all students as the workshop gets closer.

Teaching philosophy



Susan recently received this evaluation from a student:

I want to compliment you on the workshop. It was wonderful and substantive. I tire of self professed art gurus gathering ladies together to spend half a day demonstrating their work, and the other half making us feel bad that we don't paint like they do. Meanwhile, after the workshop with you, I am armed with new color courage and some actual art education.

Another participant in the Vermont retreat commented:

Thank you so much for such a wonderful and productive week. It was inspiring to be in that community of painters and have such a beautiful part of Vermont for subjects. Thank you also for the incredible wealth of information you imparted, and your accepting and encouraging manner. You are a gifted and natural teacher, and the class exceeded all expectations."

Susan's goal in teaching is to help you develop your own individual painting style, while also emphasizing both basic, and more complex, approaches to landscape painting. Her classes emphasize understanding the language of visual art, especially color and composition, rather than "how-to" paint specific subjects, or in a particular style.

Susan also emphasizes learning from art history, and she provides a broad exposure to both master painters and contemporary artists. She wants you to leave her workshops enthused about your own painting, and also with an appreciation of art as an always challenging, ever-engaging lifelong journey.

You can find more student comments on Susan's teaching here:

<http://www.susanabbott.com/comments-on-teaching/>

Getting to the Workshop

Susan's studio is a twenty minute drive northeast from Montpelier, VT. Montpelier is a ten hour drive from Washington, DC, six hours from New York City, and three hours from Boston or Montreal.

Burlington International is the closest airport (45 minutes from Montpelier) and serviced by most carriers. Southwest flies into Manchester, NH (3 hours from Marshfield.) Students can rent a car at either airport. We will be carpooling to painting sites during the workshop.

Amtrak's Vermonter train stops at Montpelier-Barre Junction, and runs from Union Station, D.C. and Penn Station NYC. It's approximately an eleven-hour trip from DC by train.

Meals

Breakfast will be available at your lodging. A delicious lunch, snacks and beverages will be served in Susan's home adjacent to her studio. Dinner is on your own, either in the Plainfield area (you'll need a car) or in one of many Montpelier restaurants. We will provide restaurant suggestions.

Lodging

Students can stay in Montpelier, where there are inns, hotels and bed and breakfasts, or in a country inn, farmhouse b & b, self-catered farmhouse or motel near Susan's studio in Marshfield. Students book their own lodging. **Reserve well in advance as rooms fill quickly.**

Below are suggestions for lodging. If you go on the linked websites, you can get a sense of the style and offerings of each place. Check out **Airbnb** for Montpelier, Plainfield and Marshfield VT listings for additional rentals. Feel free to contact Susan if you have housing questions.

Marshfield/Plainfield lodging (rural):

Hollister Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast

<http://www.hollisterhillfarm.com/>

A pleasant, small working farm serving a delicious full farm breakfast.

¼ mile from studio

Marshfield Inn and Motel

<http://www.marshfieldinn.com/index.html>

This motel is modestly priced, simple, clean and friendly, on Route 2. Serves breakfast.

2 miles from studio

Adelaide Tyrol rental

(802) 309-1157 atyrol@ostudio.com

A very nice apartment in a lovely spot. Has a bedroom, plus living room with a fold out queen, and a full kitchen. Perfect for a couple or 2 students.

1.5 miles from studio

Fruitlands Bed and Breakfast

<http://www.fruitlands.net/index.htm>

A small organic farm.

10 miles from studio

Pie in the Sky Farm and B and B

This B and B has suites with kitchen or bedrooms with shared bath.

<http://www.pieinsky.com/>

5 miles from studio

Montpelier lodging (20 minutes from studio):

Montpelier is a nice little city, where within a four-block area you can find a variety of restaurants, small-scale shopping (including an art supply store), bookstores, two cinemas, a theater, bars and cafes, a gym, and walking paths.

The Montpelier website has good information about the area, and more lodging possibilities, including the recommended places below:

<http://www.montpelier-vt.org/attractions/index.cfm>

The Inn at Montpelier

<http://www.innatmontpelier.com/>

This is a mid-size, comfortable old-fashioned hotel on a quiet downtown street, serving a continental breakfast.

Capitol Plaza

<http://www.capitolplaza.com/>

The Plaza is a larger, more traditional hotel, downtown and across from the Statehouse, with a restaurant and Starbucks onsite.

Betsy's Bed and Breakfast

<http://betsysbnb.com/>

A popular Victorian b and b on a quiet side street that serves a full breakfast.

Comfort Inn Maplewood

<http://www.comfortinnmontpelier.com/>

A motel near the interstate.

Call Susan at (802) 454-1621, or email her at sa@susanabbott.com with any questions about the Vermont Landscape Painting Retreats. We hope you can join us!

To register please fill out the form on the next page.

About the Instructor



Susan Abbott graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA and MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute, College of Art. She has worked as a professional artist since that time, exhibiting in galleries and museums around the country. She has painted commissions for many corporations and individuals, including Oprah Winfrey. Susan's work has appeared in publications that include "American Artist", "International Artist" and "Watercolor Magazine", and has been featured on NPR's Diane Rehm Show and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Reviewers have praised Abbott's "virtuosity" and "dazzling skill" in watercolor, and described her paintings as "fantastic studies of color and form, and sublime everyday epics." In addition to her career as an exhibiting artist, she is a popular teacher of art workshops in Italy, India, Provence, Paris, Spain, the Bahamas, and other sites around the world. For more information visit <http://www.susanabbott.com>.

Registration for the 2019 Vermont Painting Retreat

To reserve your place, please send a check for \$595. paid to "Susan Abbott" and a completed registration form to: Susan Abbott, 2435 Hollister Hill Road, Marshfield, VT, 05658.

Your payment is refundable less \$75.00 up to March 30th, 2019; after that date no refund can be issued, unless there is a student on the waiting list who can take your place. In that case, you will be issued a refund less \$95.

Name:

Address:

I'm registering for Session 1 _____ I'm registering for Session 2 _____

Home phone:

Cell phone:

Email:

Emergency contact:

Do you have any dietary restrictions?

What medium(s) will you be working in?

Have you painted outside before?

Please describe your previous painting experience, and what areas of your painting you feel most need instruction.