



Claude Monet (1840-1926)
painting outdoors in Giverny

SCMAC Plein Air Oil & Acrylic Painting

Fridays, July 30-August 20, 2010

4 sessions 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Course Fee: \$155 members/\$175 non-members

Brenda Berg, Instructor

email:

bberg007@comcast.net

The class offers students two sessions in the Santa Cruz Mountains and two sessions along the coast. Students will have the opportunity to experience the exhilaration that comes from painting directly from nature. Working from nature in a constantly changing light source can be challenging—but it's the spectacular colors, textures, scenes, sounds and smells of the living landscape that the outdoor painter finds engaging. The class is open to all students wanting to learn more about plein air oil painting.

Travel Policy: This course requires artists to travel to different locations each week as listed below:

Friday, 9:00AM-12:30 PM Schedule:

July 30th



Meet at **Art Center**, then travel to **Highlands Park**, Ben Lomond. Review Materials list, schedule, carpooling, and a few safety notes. Few slides or short video, discussion of sketchbook, preliminary drawings/thumbnails, composing, grounds, working general to specific, cropping, pictorial focus, limited palette, and alla prima—get the image down, complete, in one setting. Critique guidelines reviewed for next week.

Directions: Start at the **Art Center in BEN LOMOND**. Turn **right** on **CA-9** - go **0.8** mi. Arrive at Highlands Park, **8500 HIGHWAY 9, BEN LOMOND**, on the **left**



August 6th



Quail Hollow Ranch, meet at Ranch, 800 Quail Hollow Road, Ben Lomond, CA.

Discuss working on a toned ground, perspective, light, expanded palette/color, brushwork, articulating narrative, simplifying and editing. Critique at 12 NOON.

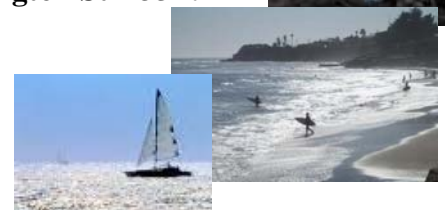
Directions: From the Art Center continue straight through the light onto Glen Arbor Road. After about 1 mile, turn **left** at **Larita Dr.** (118 feet). Take the 1st **left** onto **Quail Hollow Rd.** (1.4 miles). Destination will be on the right.

August 13th



Meet in the parking lot at the end of the **MUNICIPAL WHARF in Santa Cruz** (view of the Boardwalk and coastal areas). Revisit mathematical and Empirical perspective, light, expanded palette/color, brushwork, responding to the seascape emotionally, articulating message, simplifying and editing, mapping, unification, clarification, grouping, revision, and reworking. Critique 12 NOON.

1. From the **Art Center**
 2. Turn **right** at **CA-9** 4.7 mi
 3. Turn **left** to stay on **CA-9** 4.6 mi
 4. Turn **right** at **CA-1/Cabrillo Hwy** 1.2 mi
 5. Turn **left** at **Laurel St** 0.6 mi
 6. Turn **right** at **Center St** 0.3 mi
 7. **Center St** turns slightly **left** and becomes **Washington St** 253 ft
 8. Continue on **Pacific Ave** 0.1 mi
 9. Slight **left** at **Front St** 177 ft
 10. Continue on **Municipal Wharf** 0.4 mi
- Destination will be on the left
12 miles, about 23 minutes.



August 20th



Meet at **UCSC Arboretum**, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1156 High St Santa Cruz. In addition to its picturesque setting, the Arboretum is world renowned for its colorful draught resistant plants from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and California natives. Painting & Final Critique/Pot Luck 11:30 AM.

From the Art Center:

2. Turn **right** at **CA-9 S** 4.5 mi
3. Turn **right** to stay on **CA-9 S** 0.2 mi
4. Take the 1st **left** to stay on **CA-9 S** 4.7 mi
5. Turn **right** at **CA-1 N** 0.6 mi
6. Slight **right** at **Mission St** (signs for **State Route 1 N/Half Moon Bay**) 0.9 mi
- 7 Turn **right** onto **Bay Street** (there's a traffic light) going up to the UC campus
- 8 Turn **left** at the **High St.** traffic light at the base of campus (don't go in the main entrance)
- 9 Stay on **High Street for approx 1/2 mile**, the Entrance to the **Arboretum is to your right**. If you arrive at the West entrance to campus, you have gone too far



Note: UCSC Arboretum has a \$5 entry fee and the Santa Cruz Wharf has parking fees which are not included in the class fees. We will arrange carpool groups on the first day of class for those interested.

Cell Phone Numbers: Brenda: 831-246-1451

Weather: We will be painting during the morning hours. The weather should be mild and clear. However, you should be prepared for a slight chill (morning fog along the coast) and some moisture in the air when we begin our morning. To protect yourself from the elements, wear a broad-brim hat and a long-sleeved shirt or protective sunscreen. Layered clothing works best for the morning. Wear sturdy shoes suitable for walking. Although all locations have easy access, if you are more daring about finding a location, you may need hiking boots. It's also a good idea to keep insect repellent in your bag. Bring plenty of water to drink, snacks, and a lunch if you plan on spending the day.

Environmental Protection: We will leave no traces of our presence where we have painted. Be prepared to carry out your trash in a small bag that you will bring. Most commonly, trash items will be dirty, paint filled rags. Use Turpenoid (NO Turpentine) sparingly for oil brushes. Do not dump any dirty paint water or solvents. Oil brushes will be cleaned on rags in the painting process. Brushes and materials can be cleaned during clean-up at home after sessions. Leave your painting area spotless.

In addition, stay on designated trails when scouting out your painting site. Do not block trails when you set up to paint...use common sense and set up off to the side if it is a narrow path.

If you have a digital camera, take photos of your paintings and the group. Upload them on a free photo site (Face book, Flickr, Kodak). Make sure you select "public" viewing. Copy the link at the top of the page (browser) and paste the link into an e-mail. Mail the link to Brenda Berg bberg007@comcast.net and we will post the link on my website and the Art Center's web site.

Bathrooms: There will be bathrooms within walking distance of all locations.



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CLASS MATERIALS

Painting Supplies:

1. Easel and stool: You will need some kind of transportable easel and box for your paints and brushes.

The French easel is considered the best by many artists. The French easel is a wooden collapsible easel which folds into a briefcase sized box with a handle. It is a paint box with a metal lined pull-out drawer, adjustable legs, and an adjustable easel. There are two kinds: a full box (about 12x18") and a half box (half the width of the full size). The easel is designed to also transport the wet painting to and from the field safely. A lightweight aluminum tri-pod easel called the *Stanrite 100* is another good collapsible easel. Some artists prefer pochade boxes. A pochade box is good for small works in locations that require more effort to reach. The box holds paints and brushes, and also stores a few painting panels in its lid. It can be mounted to a tripod for field work. There are several transportable easels available. Be willing to shop around. You may also want a collapsible light-weight stool or chair with a carrying strap.

2. Brushes: You will need a variety of brushes. Synthetic Sable brushes or hog bristle (or comparable oil/acrylic paint quality). If you can't find the exact size, just get something close.

Flat or bright: size 6, 14

Rounds: size 2, 4

Filbert: 2, 5, 10

Household 2" brush (local hardware store is fine)

Palette Knife for mixing paints

Painting knife for quickly applying paint, loose painting techniques



3. Oil or Acrylic Paint: Artist grade if you can afford it, or student grade if on a tight budget. Bold print colors are most important, if on a limited budget.

Titanium White (large tube)

Yellow Ochre

Burnt Sienna

Burnt Umber

Cadmium Lemon

Cadmium Yellow Medium

Cadmium Red Medium

Alizarin Crimson

Cerulean Blue

Prussian Blue

Ultramarine Blue

Cobalt Blue

Sap Green

Permanent Green

Other colors may be added as course progresses, or as individual student interest develops.



4. Palette: Make sure the palette is around 12" by 16". A paper palette tablet with disposable sheets is fine. Oil painters should have a sheet of aluminum foil to cover palette for safe traveling or a palette box. Acrylic painters will need a palette and a container for the palette with a tightly fitting lid (*sta-wet* palette with sponge and paper palette inserts is a good option).

5. Support materials: 4 or more (16"X 20" is a good size for beginners)

Stretched canvas (build your own, or buy pre-made), or Canvas boards, or Masonite. Acrylic Gesso (small bottle for unprimed supports)

6. Other: sketchbook or canvas paper

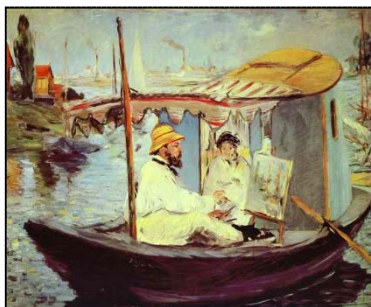
If you are not already in the habit of working in journals, now is a great time to start what will prove to be a very beneficial exercise. Use your journal for visual and written notations. Put whatever you like into your sketch journals—especially things that might prove useful to your art-making processes: experiment (be willing to try new ideas and different approaches to image-making), draw what you see around you, copy drawings from the masters, draw in the style of an artist that interests you, draw from imagination... an inspired gesture or quick study often marks the pivotal point for a more sustained composition.

You may want to develop one of your quick journal entries or thumbnail sketches more fully as a consideration for a fully sustained canvas composition. You may need to make additional adjustments once on the canvas, but these preliminary drawings will ultimately save you time and could prevent you from spending excessive energy on a poorly conceived idea/composition.

- Brush Soap
- Few water soluble pencils or sticks for field studies (black, red, blue, yellow, green) and an inexpensive water color brush or sumi brush (optional)
- Masking Tape
- Soft cotton rags, cut into approximately 8 inch squares (you will need a lot or rags for the class—old cotton T-shirts are perfect)
- Odorless Turpenoid (oils only)
- Bottle of clean water (acrylics only)
- Spray bottle with fine mist (acrylics only)
- Jar or can with wide mouth and a tightly fitting lid for Turpenoid (oils) or water (acrylics)
- Artist's Barrier Cream or disposable gloves (recommended)
- Plastic bags to carry trash out.
- If needed, tackle box or "Art Bin" for carrying materials
- Cart with wheels to transport materials (optional)
- Attachable umbrella (optional)

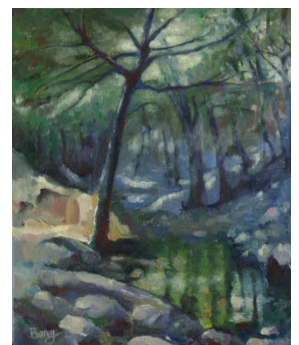


Other materials may be introduced as course progresses, or as student interest in optional media develops.



Edouard Manet
Claude Monet Painting on His Studio Boat. 1874.
Oil on canvas.

Notes:



Brenda Berg
Boulder Creek
Oil on board