

Donna Downey

Expressive Figures

2-day workshop

Class minimum 10 students, maximum 20

Per student teaching fee \$400

10-5 pm (1 hour lunch)



Description:

Rendering the human figure is both vulnerable and intrinsically beautiful. You will learn to paint the movements of the body and explore expressive intentions and emotions through each mark of color. Your painting will evoke a powerful, dreamlike quality.

My personal style is to render the body in abstracted block of colors and bold brushwork. The figures emerge as broken, but beautifully constructed and expressively raw.

JUST THE FACTS!

Overview of the Workshop Lessons

- Complete 1-2 figurative paintings.
- On Day 1 we will work together from the same image (image will be provided prior to class) and on Day 2, I encourage a student choice for individualized work.
- This workshop can be done in acrylics or oils (or both).
- We will not be striving for realism but strictly focussing on the expressive quality of painting the figure.
- We will explore paint colors, skin tones and color mixing.
- Elements of composition.
- Subjects should be drawn onto surfaces prior to class (I will also bring my projector for anyone who may want assistance in getting the image onto the canvas)
- Defining the body through shadow and light.
- Highlighting the stylistic differences each artist brings to their own painting.

Students will need to bring the following supplies:

- Two 18x24 canvases
- Paint colors (Either acrylic or oil)
 - Titanium white
 - Raw Umber
 - Burnt Umber
 - Yellow Ochre
 - Venetian Red
 - A variety of flesh tones in pinks (Charvin makes a portrait and light Portrait Pink I really like) & yellows, **OR** otherwise we will mix our own
- Princeton Catalyst Silicone wedge, size #6



- Catalyst mini blades #1 ,#2 or #6
- Paintbrushes. I like a size #4 or #6. Maybe a detail round size #2, but I always recommend using what you have on hand and not buying anything new for the workshop.
- At least one reference photo to paint from. Some tips for choosing a photo:
 - Image should be a simple figure, sometimes it helps to have a B&W and color version to reference. If you crop the photo to 6x8 and then print it to “fit the page” the dimensions will be correct to work from.
- If painting in acrylic:
 - Water bucket to clean brushes
 - Paper towels and/or baby wipes
 - Golden OPEN acrylic medium (optional, but this keeps your paint workable and easier to blend longer)
 - Sta-wet palette
 - Palette knife for mixing colors
- If painting in oil:
 - Brush washer
 - Gamsol
 - Palette
 - Paper towels
 - Gloves (optional)
 - Oil medium (optional. I like gamblin alkyd)
- easel

Note: My favorite oil paint colors are from Charvin any flesh toned pinks or tans! Yummy!