



Community Education – Spring Quarter 2026

Course Information

Course Title:	Independent Study for Artists
Instructor:	Sharon Schwane
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Course Description

Experience the joys of watercolor in a positive atmosphere with the support and encouragement of fellow artists. Explore and work on your own projects, brush up on watercolor basics, and/or learn some new and interesting techniques to add to your painting repertoire. For those wanting to join in the projects on the syllabus, please consult the supply list.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Enjoy studio space with other artists as they work independently on their own projects and be inspired by the discussions and weekly critiques by fellow artists.
- Learn to use a loose approach in creating subjects that highlights the unique properties of watercolor.
- Learn to create singular paintings using different background techniques such as, Bokeh and tissue paper; and review the use Masa paper and Yupo for backgrounds.

Course Schedule

1. Week 1: Apr. 7 - Loosening Up

- Using loose watercolor techniques to create sunsets and landscapes.

2. Week 2: Apr.14 - Flower Power

- Artists will let the medium do its thing as they create loose floral paintings

3. Week 3: Apr. 21 - Under the Sea

- Artists will use watercolor to create colorful sea creatures

4. **Week 4: Apr. 28 – Around We Go**
 - Artists paint circles using chosen palette to use for background for subjects
5. **Week 5: May 5 - Bokeh**
 - Artists use the Bokeh technique to create interesting background for subjects
6. **Week 6: May 12 – Kleenex Pour**
 - Reviewing the use of tissue (Kleenex) to make painting backgrounds
7. **Week 7: May 19 – Masa Paper**
 - Artists will use Masa paper to create backgrounds for painting
8. **Week 8: May 26 – Masa Part 2**
 - Artists will mount Masa paper and paint subjects
9. **Week 9: June 2 - Yupo**
 - Artists will review the use of Yupo (plastic paper) to create paintings

Resources

Recommended references for further study:

Watercolor: Let the Medium Do It by Valfred Thelin, Watson-Guption Publ., New York

Paint Yourself Calm by Jean Haines, Search Press Ltd., Turnbridge Wells, Kent

The Tao of Watercolor by Jeanne Carbonetti, Watson-Guption Publ., New York

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your junk/spam folder.
- Evaluations are anonymous and come directly from Clark College.
- If you do not receive one, contact Continuing Education at:
Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
Phone: 360-992-2939

Incident Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu.
- Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
- If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
- Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.

More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/