



"Homage to Frank", oil on linen, 30" x 40", by Leslie Watkins ©2011

Housatonic Valley Art League presents

Plein Air Oil Painting: The Prismatic Palette Demystified

Leslie Watkins, Instructor

Saturday and Sunday, May 28 - 29, 2011, 9AM - 4PM, HVAL members \$200. , non-members \$225.

Saturday and Sunday, June 11 - 12, 2011, 9AM - 4PM, HVAL Members \$200. , non-members \$225.

Bushnell-Sage Library, Sheffield, Massachusetts

In this workshop, you will become acquainted with traditional plein air painting concepts using the historic Prismatic Palette. You will learn how to set up a shelf box, mix the paints, and how to get started painting alla prima, using the Prismatic Palette. You will learn to use tonal values to describe light, depth and form within the picture plane. Atmospheric painting will be explained and demonstrated.

On the first day, you will review the landscape painter's setup and equipment, mixing the palette, the theory behind the palette, and how to use it, followed by a brief demonstration. You will take paint samples and use them to make your own palette mixtures. The next day you will go outdoors to paint, with individual instruction, followed by critique. All levels are welcomed to this workshop.

The Prismatic Palette Demystified

Join landscape painter Leslie Watkins for an introduction to the historic prismatic oil palette as developed by the Lyme Art Colony painter, Frank Vincent DuMond, and later modified by his student, Frank Mason. The palette is designed for painting in plein air, facilitating accurate color and tone choices. Using the palette clarifies the painting process, and allows the artist to deftly capture the moment in an ever-changing environment. Watkins will explain the theory behind the palette, how to mix the paints, and how to use them to create atmospheric progressions within the painting to capture specific types and times of day.

DuMond paintings are in the permanent collection of the Florence Griswold Museum. He became associated with the Lyme Art Colony in 1902, and moved to Grassy Hill in 1906. DuMond taught at the Art Students League from 1892 until his death in 1951. Among his students were Georgia O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, and Frank Mason. As a young student, Frank Mason would spend his summers at Grassy Hill assisting DuMond in the studio and on the farm. Mason assumed DuMond's teaching position in Studio 7 in 1951, and taught at the League until his death in 2009, spanning 117 cumulative years of teaching between them both.

Watkins began studying at the Art Students League in 1978, and with Mason in 1982, both in his Stowe, Vermont landscape class and at the League. Watkins has exhibited at The National Arts Club, The Salmagundi Club, The Union League Club, The Hudson Valley Art Association, The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, the Lyme Art Association and at various galleries in New York, New England and Japan.

Watkins has taught art workshops at Skidmore College, at the Garrison Art Center in NY, at the The Berkshire Botanical Garden, for the Housatonic Valley Art League, and at the Lyme Art Association. She also teaches privately in her studio in Norfolk, in northwestern CT.

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All workshops are held at the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield, MA unless otherwise noted. The workshops are on Saturdays and/or Sundays, 9 AM - 4 PM. For more information about the workshops, the instructors, and material lists, please visit the Housatonic Valley Art League website.

HVAL members \$200.00

Non-members \$225.00

Non-refundable registration deposit, \$50.00

Bushnell - Sage Library

487 Main Street

Sheffield, MA

www.hvart.org

info@hvat.org

HVAL is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Call Leslie Watkins to register first, then send checks made out to HVAL, with name, address, telephone number, and email address to the HVAL workshop director:

Leslie Watkins, 281 Litchfield Road, Norfolk, CT 06058 • (860) 542-3920 • lesliewatkins@lesliewatkins.com

www.lesliewatkins.com