

Watercolor Workshops with Tara Sweeney:

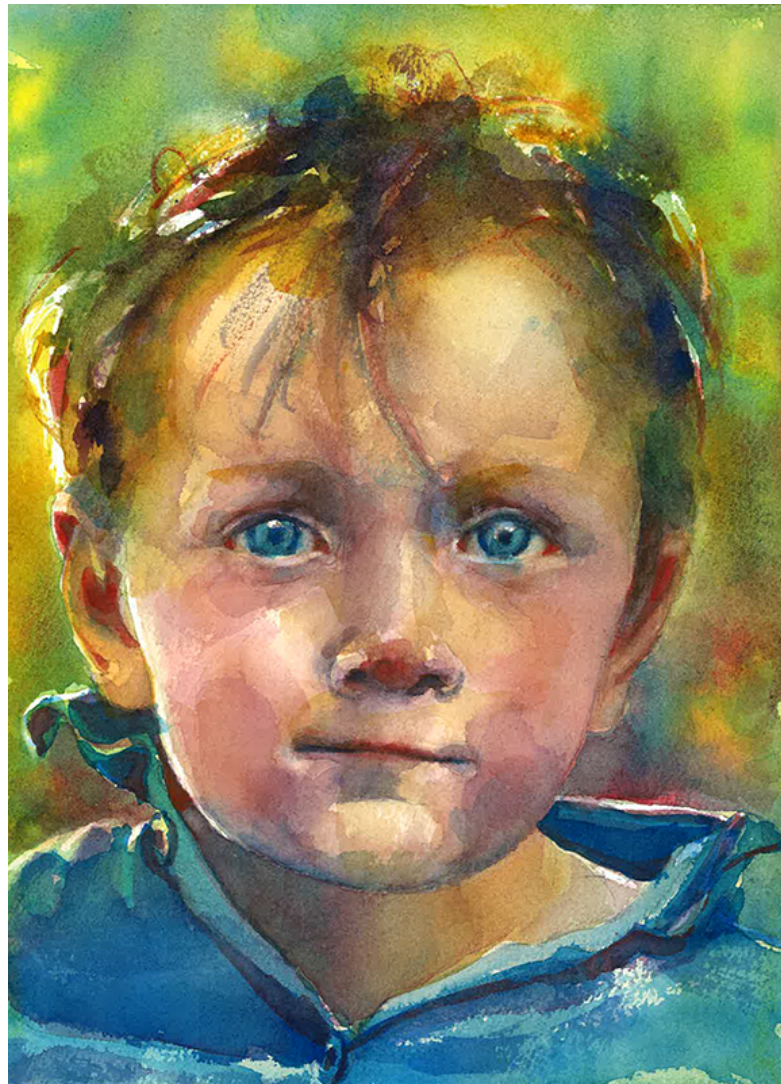
Choose from the following popular workshops or [contact me](#) about custom content for your group.

Watercolor Portraits (*studio-based*)

Watercolors are a lot like people—you have to accept their quirks along with their charms to understand them. That spontaneity makes watercolor the perfect medium to capture character. Create a three-layer value study to simplify the shapes and values of features and facial planes. Learn to apply the same principles to a three-layer/four-value approach to the color portrait. Build confidence as you explore pigment characteristics, wet-into-wet mingling, transparent layering, intentional lost and found edges, and lively brushwork with instructor demos, guided exercises and individualized feedback. All levels are welcome.

3- to 5-day workshop (18 to 30 contact hours)

Maximum enrollment: 15



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Watercolor Figures (*studio and/or plein air*)

Expand your landscape and cityscape toolbox with figures—things that move are not limited to humans. Work from photo reference and direct observation to animate your composition. Learn to see the structure of light and shadow, perspective, and depth as you simplify figures and spaces into shapes and values with a three-layer/four-value approach to watercolor. Build confidence as you explore pigment characteristics, wet-into-wet mingling, transparent layering, intentional lost and found edges, and lively brushwork with instructor demos, guided exercises and individualized feedback. All levels are welcome.

3- to 5-day workshop (18 to 30 contact hours)

Maximum enrollment: 15



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Play with Watercolor (*studio-based*)

Spontaneity makes for great fun whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced painter looking to revitalize your technique. Follow watercolor's playful lead with a split primary limited palette: jump start your creativity; wake up your senses; strengthen your technique; paint intuitively. Build confidence as you explore pigment characteristics, wet-into-wet mingling, transparent layering, intentional lost and found edges, and lively brushwork with instructor demos, guided exercises and individualized feedback. All levels are welcome.

1- to 3-day workshop (6 to 18 hours contact hours)

Maximum enrollment: 15



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Watercolor Interiors (*studio-based*)

Most of us come inside part of the year. (For those of us in Northern latitudes it's half the year!) Capture the mood of interior life whether your inspiration is the quality of light itself, or the figures, objects and spaces it illuminates. See the structure of light and shadow, perspective and depth. Create a three-layer value study to simplify shapes and values. Learn to apply the same principles to a three-layer/four-value approach to color. Build confidence as you explore pigment characteristics, wet-into-wet mingling, transparent layering, intentional lost and found edges, and lively brushwork with instructor demos, guided exercises and individualized feedback. All levels are welcome.

3- to 5-day workshop (18 to 30 contact hours)

Maximum enrollment: 15

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Watercolor Sketchbook Journal (*plein air*)

Combine sketching and writing on location in a portable format. Learn the basics of mingling watercolor and ink as you practice plein air sketching techniques and respond to simple writing prompts to explore the world inside and out. Get started on your watercolor journaling habit with the support of instructor demonstrations, individualized feedback, and focused work time.

3-day workshop (18 contact hours)

Maximum enrollment: 15



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Materials List for Plein Air Workshops:

- Portable sketchbook appropriate for wet media work, 8.5x11 or smaller
- Permanent black ink pen (Staedtler pigment liner 0.3, for example)
- Aquash waterbrush LARGE (this is different than a standard watercolor brush)
- Box of professional quality, portable, hard-pan watercolors
- paper towels
- ziploc bags large enough to stow wet materials and to protect sketchbook as needed
- water bottle with squirt top
- rubber band and a couple of small binder clips to restrain sketchbook in a breeze
- easy to carry bag or backpack for materials
- portable painting easel and stool are optional but be sure you can easily carry these with your materials on a short walk
- comfortable shoes of course
- dress with the weather in mind

Materials List for Studio-Based Workshops:

-140# cold press watercolor paper and mounting board, OR watercolor BLOCK, 140# cold press. Minimum size: 9x12 inches; maximum size 12x18, quarter sheet (11x15) or similar.

-PROFESSIONAL QUALITY tube pigments. Bring what you already have but be sure to have a minimum of a warm and a cool temperature hue for each primary, and a neutral gray. For example: quinacridone gold (warm); hansa yellow (cool); naphthol red (warm); quinacridone rose (cool); phthalocyanine blue green shade (cool); ultramarine blue (warm); and paynes gray.

-tray mixing palette

-3 small containers with lids (4-8 oz condiment cups work well)

-1/4 inch artist tape

-2B drawing pencil

-kneaded eraser

-synthetic round watercolor brush, #10

-Silver Black Velvet Jumbo round mop brush, small, or similar mop

-small spray water bottle

-3 rinsing containers

-water bottle with squirt top – 8oz - 16oz

-paper towels

-small clean household sponge

-tracing paper

-graphite transfer paper

Note: For workshops using photo reference, a separate handout on selection of photos and preparation of drawing will be emailed after registration.

Note to Participants:

I have been painting for nearly 40 years and I am not bored yet. I like to think of my partnership with watercolor like a dance--when I remember to follow its strong lead, the result is fluid, elegant, effortless. When I don't, we still dance, but it's awkward. Learning to follow watercolor's lead takes time, good coaching, and a willingness to try and try again. That's where I can help.

What kind of watercolor are you longing to paint? The "right" way to paint is the way that best supports your ideas and goals (not mine). With 27 years of teaching experience I can help you explore *what* to paint and *how*, but just as importantly, *why* you want to paint. We'll identify creative goals and explore solid technique and design to support your progress. When you get stuck—every painter struggles with this—I'll help you find ways to get going again. We'll look at your painting in progress to see where you are succeeding. When you want direction, I'll be there to suggest what might come next. My daily step-by-step workshop demonstrations and warmup exercises are carefully designed to support your progress. I provide a written summary and visual aids so you can see, hear and review content. For each workshop, I check my previous content for fit, and revise as needed. This insures content is fresh for new as well as repeat participants.

We'll start wherever you are in your creative journey. Together we will make art *and* messes, intentional choices *and* happy accidents. We will find problems to solve, courage to try, and resilience to continue. You'll learn how you want to paint, but more importantly, why.

I look forward to learning what you long to create, what holds you back, and how I can help you acquire the skills and confidence to bring your best paintings to life. At the end of our time together, I'll know I've succeeded when your painting is distinctively yours, (not mine), and you can't wait to do more.

Additional Workshop Topics:

Favorite Objects: Still Life (studio curriculum)
Buds & Blooms (studio and/or plein air curriculum)
Watercolor Accordion Journal (plein air curriculum)
Portable Watercolor Postcards (plein air curriculum)