

The Abstracted Landscape

Student level- Intermediate to intermediate/advance

Participants will consider how the observed landscape can be abstracted through colour and form while also using the personal and political as areas of research. Two field trips will be taken to observe landscapes, make preliminary sketches in situ, and then later develop works in the studio. If weather permits, the class will take a field trip on the first and third day, and studio days on the second and fourth day.

A lecture will be given that shares examples of contemporary and historic artists who have used the landscape and its components as starting points for abstraction. Artists presented in the slide presentation will include Etel Adnan, Jack Humphrey, Paterson Ewen, Milton Avery, Per Kirkeby, Julie Mehretu, Charles Birchfield, Bertram Brooker, Kathleen Munn, Arthur Dove, Kazuo Nakamura, Lawrence Paul Yuxwelupton, as well as instructor Jay Isaac's paintings and his investigations into the abstracted landscape.

During the field trips, students will approach the landscape formally by dissecting and interpreting its components. Shapes, colours, textures, and light will be observed and translated into abstracted works in the studio. The focus of this course will be experimentation and understanding how to implement various processes. Participants will be encouraged to create multiple works over the four days, ranging from sketches to more finished works.

Material list:

Pad of newsprint for sketching

Dry media (markers, charcoal, conte, pencils and eraser)

Water media (watercolour, inks, and brush)

Bristol paper (11x17)

Watercolour paper

Mixing trays for water media

Gel medium as adhesive

Acrylic paints, brushes, mixing containers

4 x 16"x 20" canvases (store-bought)

6 x 12"x 18" gessoed Masonite boards

Bag to carry items on field trips

Please remember to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, sun hat and a water bottle.

*Please note, that this is a scent and fragrance-free course and we ask all participants to refrain from wearing scented products.