

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2026

2-DAY WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS by Lisa Hill

I will provide a photo and line drawing for the projects where applicable.

"Gouache Rocks" 14"x11"

2-day workshop: Wednesday & Thursday, Sept 9 & 10 9a-4p

FULL

Let's try a new watercolor medium! I've been experimenting with gouache, opaque watercolor, pronounced like "squash" (with a British accent).

Gouache has excellent covering qualities similar to acrylics, and can be watered down to be more like transparent watercolor. The best of both mediums!

And, wait for it...

we get to use white and a bit of black, *and* I will encourage the use of thick, pasty paint on the paper.

Have you ever heard of such a thing in one of my classes?

This project will require you to purchase three tubes of good quality gouache such as M. Graham or Daniel Smith. Our go-to primaries of Quinacridone Rose, Phthalo Blue and Hansa Yellow Medium will make many mixed colors, and I will have lots of other color options on hand for you, including the white and black.

Be assured that your finished painting will be as colorful as you wish, not drab grays. The reference photo is for the rock and shadow placement only.

"June Rubies" 10" x 8"

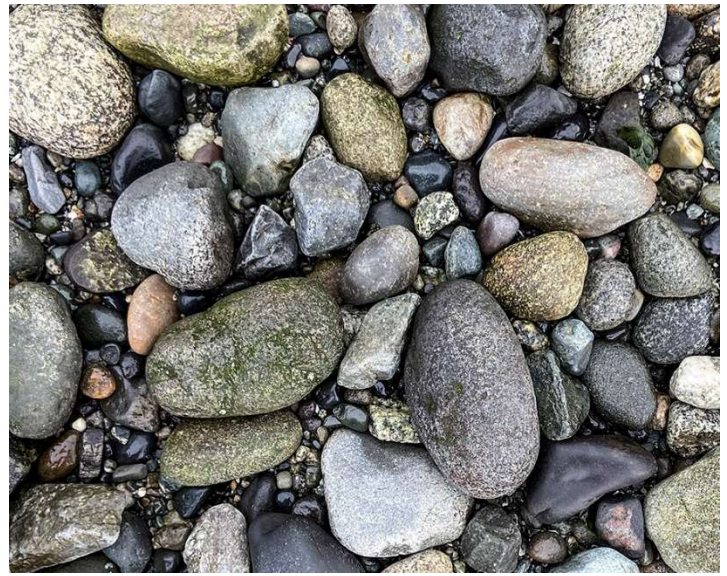
2-day workshop: Wednesday & Thursday, Sept 23 & 24 9a-4p

1 opening by the window

After all these years of teaching (year 16!), I have yet to paint strawberries! A few students have asked to paint glass and this design lets us delve into strawberries, draped cloth, colored shadows and the glass. It's a lot, but remember that a painting is a collection of shapes with various colors and values and you manage one element at a time. It's doable.

Having said that, we will keep this painting at 10"x8" so you can finish it in two days!

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"Summer Bounty" 8"x10"

2-day workshop: Wednesday & Thursday, Oct 7 & 8 9a-4p
FULL

I canned a LOT of peaches way back when, and I'll never forget the sweet aroma of hot fruit and the lovely golden orange color in the jars.

Here's another opportunity to paint glass in a simpler design than the strawberries project. We will paint the uncut peaches slightly blurry to keep them in the background and let the beautifully layered fruit in the jar take center stage. We will work on creating texture in the weathered wooden table, too.

I borrowed this image with permission from Sarah Cook of Sustainedcooks.com. She was flattered that we are going to paint her photo of peaches.



"Hydrangea Mosaic" negative painting 14"x11"

2-day workshop: Wednesday & Thursday, Oct 21 & 22 9a-4p
1 opening + 1 opening by the window

A negative painting class pops up now and then, giving us another opportunity to wrap our heads around the idea of painting the space around an object. It helps keep our faculties sharp because it's tricky and not something we do every day!

This design has a lot of small pieces and will require some positive thinking to stay focused. See what I did there? We will spatter paint and spritz water on the paper before defining the shapes. This is the only way to get the unique splash patterns within the painting. These are important elements in the overall effect.

I have included an image of a finished painting I did a few years ago so you will have a visual of the project. You can choose your own colors.



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“Colorful Houses” 10”x8”

2-day workshop: Wednesday & Thursday, Nov 11 & 12 9a-4p
FULL

Old building facades in Europe are often painted in brilliant jewel tones that bring a lot of energy into a scene. We are going to set aside the realistic style for these pieces and paint with freeform techniques instead. We can utilize the Richard Taylor style that we have studied in the past, and use black permanent pens for an ink and wash effect.

Thanks to Marsha Bates for these images from Burano Island, Italy.



“A Golden Ratio of Butterflies” 13”x8”

2-day workshop: Wednesday & Thursday, Nov 18 & 19 9a-4p
3 openings + 1 opening by the window

The Golden Mean, or Ratio or Spiral, is a mathematical proportion that is often found in nature; nautilus shells, sunflower centers, unfurling fern fronds and even spiral arm galaxies. Artists use it to create pleasing proportions in a composition that can be visualized by superimposing the golden spiral over a painting.

The butterflies in this project are all found in Washington and all have some golden orange color except the focal point, the small blue beauty in the center of the spiral.

The dimensions of this project are unusual in order to accommodate the golden mean proportions. You may choose to paint a spiral on your finished piece, or let the geometric shapes guide the viewer’s eye to the sweet spot.

We’ve painted butterflies in several other classes, but not like this design! Be sure to look up the golden mean for more info.

