



Tara Winona

KU-RING-GAI ART SOCIETY
WATERCOLOUR ON CANVAS WORKSHOP
- OWL PORTRAIT -

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T A R A W I N O N A

WATERCOLOUR ON CANVAS WORKSHOP
KU-RING-GAI ART SOCIETY - OCTOBER 2017

In this workshop we will explore the potential and wonderful surprises that watercolour on canvas offers.

Relatively recently watercolour gessos were introduced into the market, opening up a whole new world. Watercolour is now no longer limited to paper!

Working on canvas has similar qualities to traditional watercolour and some wonderful differences...

Together through creating the portrait of an owl, we will explore the tricks, techniques and flow that I have learnt on my journey in experimenting with this medium. Watercolour has a mind of its own so there are no 'wrongs'! This workshop is for beginners to advanced.

I will teach you how to prepare and seal your canvas, walk you through techniques and guide you in creating your own owl interpretation.

Owls hold a special place for me. With their mythology, wisdom, penetrating gaze and soaring flight, they lend themselves beautifully to the freedom and flow that is the natural voice of watercolour and encourage the expression of the unique creative self to come forth.

SHOPPING LIST

- 2 x pre-prepared watercolour gessoed canvases

CANVASES MUST BE PRE-GESSOED A MINIMUM OF 3 DAYS BEFORE THE WORKSHOP - BY THE EVENING OF TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER

- 1 x experimental canvas (cheap, cheerful and small is perfect)
- 1 x masterpiece canvas at a size you would like to work at.

I recommend no more than about 50cm in height, so you can work seated at a table. Square or landscape depending on the owl pose you wish to paint

- UV protective archival spray varnish - gloss and matt
- Packet of magic eraser sponges (you can get these from Woolies in the cleaning section - without chamois or detergent)
- your favourite watercolour brushes – I would suggest a small detail brush, a medium general brush and large wash brush (squirrel mop is my fav)
- palette
- watercolour in your favourite colour, preferably one that allows both dark and light tones. My favourite is Prussian Blue
- several sheets of layout paper about the size of your canvas
- blue pastel
- lead pencil for drawing out your owl
- salt
- a roll of paper towels
- water jar/bucket



WATERCOLOUR GESSO

Schmincke, Daniel Smith and Golden make watercolour gesses which are all great.

UV PROTECTIVE ARCHIVAL VARNISH

To seal the painting once it is finished, you must use a solvent-based UV protective spray. Golden and Krylon make the best varnishes to the highest archival standards. You will need both gloss and matt - the first 6 coats must be gloss, the final few matt to reduce the sheen.

P R E - W O R K S H O P C A N V A S P R E P

Please pre-prime your canvases a minimum of 3 days **BEFORE** the workshop. You will need 2 canvases – one for experimenting and one for your owl painting

1. Canvases must first be prepared with 'normal' gesso, as you would for an acrylic or oil painting. Easiest is to buy shop-prepped canvases. If you do it yourself, a minimum of 2 coats, 3 is preferable, smooth. I love the Matisse gesso for this.

2. Watercolour gesso – please prepare your canvases with 3 layers of watercolour primer a minimum of 3 days before the workshop. I suggest spreading it on with a palette knife and then brushing it smooth with a wide soft brush. You can use a very small amount of water to wet your brush and help smooth it. Make sure each coat is dry before adding the next coat.

Watercolour gesso needs at least 48 hours to cure, so please make sure your canvases are prepped and drying by the evening of Tuesday 11th October.

O W L R E S E A R C H

Please go online and look for an owl image that sings to you, that you would like to work with. It may be a seated owl or an owl in flight. Is it gazing out, connecting to the viewer or looking off camera – out to the horizon?

If you don't find any images, don't worry, I will bring some printouts with me from my research trips that you are more than welcome to use.





Any questions please give feel free to contact me.

Art Scene in Ryde offer a 10% discount off materials if you go and say you want the 'Tara Winona' watercolour on canvas kit

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