

OLLI at SOU Watercolor Painting SIG

Facilitator: Becky Hawkins, 503-866-8893, so.oregon.editor@gmail.com

History: This SIG was formed by Becky Hawkins and the 12 OLLI members who completed the Fall 2020 OLLI session of ARTS213 “Watercolor Basics: Starting from the Paper Up.”

Membership now includes OLLI members at all levels of watercolor expertise and experience.

Group mission: The members of this SIG want to improve their watercolor painting and are committed to developing a regular watercolor painting “habit.” The meetings are designed to help members start and maintain an “accountability-to-artistic-practice” through suggested painting exercises with the option of sharing individual watercolor projects instead. Members upload their paintings to Padlet and post constructive feedback to others on their work (*see below*); share what they have learned from other classes, articles, videos on YouTube or tutorials; ask for advice; describe their experiences with supplies and more.

Requirements: Current, paid-in-full OLLI at SOU membership is required. Members agree to share their email, daytime telephone, and mailing address information with the group in a privately distributed PDF document; birth dates (no year) are also optionally shared.

Skills or proficiency: A serious interest in watercolor painting, a commitment to regular submission of work, and participation in constructive group critiques. Zoom meeting skills (how to mute/unmute, stop your video, “Raise Hand,” use Chat, etc.). Watercolor supplies and an at-home workspace that accommodates a computer/laptop/tablet for connecting to the online sessions and to the SIG’s private online platform, an application called Padlet. Computer and technology skills include the ability to take a well-lighted, focused photograph of your painting for submission; upload a jpeg file (500k to 2 megabytes in size) of that photograph to the SIG’s private online Padlet platform; and (*optionally*) download PDF content from Padlet for private use. New members do receive written instructions and initial assistance with posting their work and downloading community materials through the private link to the SIG Padlet.

Maximum number of members: 18. Contact the facilitator by email for more information and space availability. Prospective members are invited to attend a session and review a copy of the *Watercolor Painting SIG Charter* before deciding to join.

Meeting location, dates, and time: Regular sessions are held online using Zoom on the first and third Mondays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (with possible holiday exceptions). The facilitator posts a quarterly session calendar with suggested painting exercises/ideas on the SIG Padlet. Members must upload paintings and add comments to others’ posted work on the weekend prior to a Monday meeting. The Zoom room opens at 12:45 p.m. and the meeting begins promptly at 1:00 p.m. and ends between 3:00-3:15 p.m. Occasionally, the group meets in person during a regular session date/time for an “art materials and book swap” or other activities. Whenever possible, the in-person meeting is held in a room provided by OLLI that has the technology to play DVDs and enable hybrid (in person and virtual) attendance.