

Workshop Day
Putney Art School

Sunday 20th March

Subject: Flamingos and their Reflections

Artist: Julia Cassels

The day will begin with some loosening up drawing exercises, with careful observation very much being the key, before moving onto painting. It focusses the attention to “learn” the subject through drawing, especially if sketching in a limited time. This in turn lends credibility and integrity to the painting.

In quick-fire sketching one automatically abbreviates the detail by only including the drawn lines necessary to describe the subject. This emphasises the sense of vitality, spontaneity, and movement.

After a break for coffee we’ll move onto paint.

We will initially use two colours for a couple of watercolour studies, and combining the two to create a third. With these studies we will explore a variety of watercolour techniques which we’ll be using later in our finished painting: wet-into-wet, dry-into-wet and a flat wash.

Having sketched out our main painting and laid down the initial wash, we’ll have a break for lunch, allowing the wash to dry.

The main painting after lunch will be a full scene of flamingos in a variety of poses, wading through the shallows. Some with wings open to display their wonderful red feathers, others with their heads down, undulating necks, and dipping into the water. Their reflections coming towards the foreground will explain the sense of water and its ripples.

At each stage of the day, whether sketching, the watercolour studies and the full painting, I will be demonstrating and explaining my materials from brushes to paper and pigments.

There will be an equipment list supplied. This is very much intended as a guide, as I will be bringing a full supply of paints, although it would be very useful to have the colours indicated in bold, the masking fluid and to bring your own watercolour paper and brushes.