

Level 1: Get Started with Acrylic Seascapes – Syllabus

In this course we are going to focus on two very specific elements: rocks and water, with a trick thrown in for doing an effective sky in very little time. Realistically, our three hours of contact time together is best spent when the focus for transformation is limited to beach details and water. In the interest of maximizing the value of this immersive painting experience, we will get straight into it at the start of each lesson and keep going until the end.

Recommended Materials:

- Acrylic Paints: at least all the primary colours of any brand, but not inferior to say, Artist's Loft
- Paintbrushes: starter kit specific to acrylic paints
- Ruler
- Pen or pencil
- A blow heater you can use to quickly dry paint in one or two minutes
- Canvas: 20 x 24 inch canvas is a good size to start with. You can also buy canvas prints at thrift stores that you can paint over. Ideal but not essential: prime your canvas first with a light colour of paint and leave to dry (you can even use emulsion house paint)
- Water jar
- Palette (can be a frisbee or for example recycled margarine containers)
- Drop Cloth to protect your carpet
- Table surface or artist easel
- Old clothes that you don't mind getting covered in paint!

Itinerary – Day 1: Rocky Beach

Overview of Skills Transformation on Day 1

By the end of Day 1 you will know how to:

- Map out your seascape painting
- Paint rocks, stones and driftwood
- Demarcating the horizon
- Blocking off and priming the beach
- 3-minute heat treatment
- Creating perspective and a sense of distance
- Outlining rocks and driftwood
- Varying your rock colours
- Shading
- Adding detail
- Adding light to rocks

Tip of the Day

When using your three minute heat treatment to quickly dry paint, place the end you want to work on first closest to the heater.

Itinerary – Day 2: Ocean + Sky

Overview of Skills Transformation on Day 2

By the end of Day 2 you will know how to:

- Paint a cloudy sky
- Paint an ocean from the horizon to the shore

- Painting a sky full of rainclouds: a fast trick
- Painting horizon details
- Painting the ocean from horizon to shore
- Painting waves and water movement
- Painting shoreline foam from receding waves
- If time remains, painting other features that tie the foreground to the ocean.

Tip of the Day

Cloud patterns, like rocks, are random. Unlike rocks, an overcast sky can look more effective and authentic the faster you paint it.