

DESERT INSTITUTE

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Fall Session
2019

Capturing Joshua Tree Landscapes with Acrylics Beginning to Intermediate Skill Levels

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, October 5, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Meet at: [Black Rock Canyon Nature Center](#)
9800 Black Rock Canyon Rd, Yucca Valley, CA

Instructor: Janis Commentz, Artist, Instructor

Itinerary

Spend a day painting in beautiful Joshua Tree NP. Few destinations offer a landscape as unique as Joshua Tree National Park. In this one-day class, you will focus on observation, setting an intention for the day, and learning the process of acrylic landscape painting. Janis Commentz is known for her color-intense palette and loose brush strokes. The morning will begin with basic instruction on the process and introduction to materials. Topics include laying out your palette, color mixing, translating your observations into a painted image, tips for lights and darks, and planning a successful composition. Participants will move outdoors to observe, sketch, and learn what to look for in a potential landscape. Both group and individual instruction will help you develop your painting and explore new techniques.

The desert is a fragile environment and eco painting techniques will be used. Please note that the class will follow Leave No Trace

Itinerary

Saturday, October 5, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Black Rock Canyon Nature Center

- Introduction
- Field class
- Lunch break, **bring your own food**
- Field class

What to Bring to the Course

Required Class Materials

(If you have questions please contact the instructor at janiscommentz@gmail.com)

Essential List:

Small Sketchbook 5"x7" or 8" x 10"

Graphite Pencils - soft drawing pencils (4B, 6B) or inexpensive mechanical pencils

Eraser - white or kneaded

Pastel pencils - green, brown, gray, blue or red-orange (1-2)

Brushes – Brite or Flat sizes #4, #6, #8 and larger brushes you like

Acrylic medium (recommended Golden Fluid Matte Medium or Liquitex Matte Medium)

Water container filled with water with lid – (a plastic juice jar 52-59 oz. works well)

Open water container- large mouth plastic jar-such as a large yogurt or other plastic container

Paper towels

Palette – *small* (8 ½ x 7") or *large* (12" x 16") recommended Masterson's Sta-wet Palette + Sta-Wet acrylic

palette paper+cellulose sponge-prepared/bathed in hot water day before

1-2 painting surfaces: canvas, clayboard or gessoed Masonite panels - 11" x 14"

Drawing board with clips or French easel

Bag or backpack to carry supplies

Recommended acrylic paint (good quality acrylic - I recommend Golden or Liquitex Heavy Body)

1. Magenta (Golden)
2. Cadmium Yellow Medium
3. Cadmium orange
4. Cadmium Red Medium
5. Ultramarine Blue
6. Cobalt Blue
7. Phthalo Blue
8. Yellow Ochre
9. Titanium White

Optional Class Materials

Paint:

1. Cerulean Blue
1. Unbleached Titanium
2. Cadmium Red Light
3. Colors you like

Palette knife

The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water

- Hiking boots with traction soles
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Hike Level

Easy

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

Janis Commentz is a painter living in the Mojave Desert. She has taught high school art, teaches classes at the 29 Palms Art Gallery and facilitated life drawing for almost a decade. She has a B.A. in art and British Literature from the University of Redlands and M.A. in Education from California State University at San Bernardino.

She exhibits in Southern California and has participated in the Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours (seven seasons), Joshua Tree National Park Juried Art Exposition (five years), Joshua Tree National Park Spring Art Festival, Art Faire at California State University at San Bernardo and Art For Heaven's Sake, Redlands. In 2013, she helped create the "Pop Up" Art Gallery in Joshua Tree which evolved into Gallery 62. Commentz served as Gallery Director for Gallery 62 during 2016. She has been the featured artist at Gallery 62, Glass Outhouse Art Gallery in Twentynine Palms and the 29 Palms Art Gallery.

Color and light are an important part of her impressionistic landscapes. Although Janis grew up near the coast, she believes desert beauty is an acquired taste and enjoys plein air painting in the Southwest.