

## Drawing the Natural World with Charcoal and Pastel

### Information

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Date/ Time: Saturday, October 19, 9 am – 4 pm

Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site)

6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree

Instructor: Monica Lynne Mahoney, Artist, Instructor

### Overview

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Join Joshua Tree based artist Monica L. Mahoney in an immersive field sketching walk-about in the heart of Joshua Tree National Park. Known for her expressive drawing style and knowledge of the native flora of the region, Monica will lead participants on a journey to capture the shapes, forms, and vistas of the natural world using pencil, charcoal, and neutral tone chalk pastel. Sharing her wealth of knowledge, Monica will guide an easy and informative natural-history walk in a spectacular private location in search of the objects and vistas that students will choose to draw. Students will explore the power of line quality, shading techniques, and using foreground, middle ground, and background shapes for creating strong, believable compositions. While the class is designed for the beginner, some previous drawing experience will be helpful. Students will be given one to one attention as needed. The goal of the workshop is to sharpen skills while having fun and exploring how drawing brings us closer to Nature and ourselves. The skills learned in this class are complimentary to the upcoming watercolor painting workshop on November 9.

This class will be conducted at the exclusive Lost Horse Campground.

### Itinerary

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Saturday, October 19, 9 am – 4 pm

*Joshua Tree Visitor Center*

- Meet and caravan from the visitor center to Lost Horse Campground
- Introduction
- Field Class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field Class

## What to Bring to the Course

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### *The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert*

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

## Necessary Art Supplies

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- **Drawing Pencils, minimum selection:** 2H, HB, B, 2B, 4 B, 6B. (Derwent Graphic technical hard set is nice and good to have for experimenting with in class and on your own)
- **0.5 mm Mechanical Pencil with Removable Eraser.** Plus (1) 2B and (1) HB spare lead packs and (1) Pack of replacement erasers. Pentel brand is fine.
- **Vine Charcoal:** try hard, medium and soft and different thicknesses to see what you like and to experiment (Faber-Castell has an affordable Pitt Charcoal set with compressed and natural charcoal and kneaded eraser that would work well)
- **Nu-Pastel minimum selection of neutrals, 1 stick each:** black, buff, light Naples yellow, burnt sienna, raw sienna, burnt umber, cold medium gray, warm medium gray, warm very light gray, white or ivory.
- **Mars White Plastic Eraser**
- **Kneaded Eraser**
- **Workable Fixatif (small can)**
- **Pencil Sharpener (important!)**
- **Chamois**
- **Field journal/sketchbook, minimum:**
  - (1) Canson Mix Media Art Book 10 in x 7 in 138 lb. and/or
  - (1) Canson The Wall wire bound sketchbook, 8.26 in x 12.36 in , 135 lb landscape

### Optional smaller sketchbooks:

- Strathmore Mixed Media 5.5 in x 8.5 in 90 lb. wire bound pads are fine and affordable for experimentation
- Prefer the Strathmore hardbound Mixed Media Artist Journal 5.5 inch x 8.5 inch 184 lb. white or tan paper is fine.

### Optional but recommended for experimentation:

Artists White Masking Tape

Michaels carries some of these but you may prefer to order from Blick Art Materials [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com) for better prices, sales and free shipping deals. Or got to your fave locally owned art supply store.

## **Fitness Requirements**

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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**

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Moderate

## **Guidelines**

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- 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 the Desert Institute Representative.

## **Instructor Biography**

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MONICA LYNNE MAHONEY, BFA, studio art, MLA Landscape Architecture, is a multidisciplinary artist, educator and native plant enthusiast living and working in Joshua Tree, CA. Mahoney's diverse artistic practice includes drawing, painting, sculpture, landscape design, ecological restoration, and award-winning public engagement and civic art programs that integrate art and the environment. She believes that no matter the skill level, painting and drawing is a portal into the natural world, which helps us see it in a new light.

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\* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.