

DESERT INSTITUTE

Fall Session
2020

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Field Sketching for Non-Artists

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, September 26, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Meet at: **Joshua Tree Visitor Center**
6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree

Instructor: Jenny Kane, Artist, Instructor

Itinerary

Would you like to enjoy the beauty of Joshua Tree National Park more fully by learning how to capture its gestures and nuances through drawing and sketching? Are you a person who “could never draw?” This class will teach you the basics of field sketching, through a sequence of exercises to help you learn to read and translate the landscape through line and movement.

We will use the simplest and most light-weight tools and materials to make this an easy to access process for the non-artists. You will learn how to connect with all of your senses and infuse this into a sketching process that is uniquely your own. Initial exploratory exercises will lead us naturally into a longer sketching phase where you will be able to spend time working on a completed drawing. Emphasis will be on providing skills and techniques you can choose from and practice anytime and anywhere.

By the time you leave this class, you may not feel like a non-artist anymore!

All materials are provided.

This class will take place at the Lost Horse Campground inside Joshua Tree National Park.

Itinerary

Saturday, September 25, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Lost Horse Campground

Morning

- Embodied movement, waking up the body. Simple body orientation exercises to bring awareness to the various senses, honing in on our eyes and the various “grounds” we pay attention to.
- Contour drawing exploration
- Gesturing exploration
- Short writing prompt (or group share out loud)
- Talking about scale- distance, foreground, background etc....
 - o Practice a scaled drawing: exaggerate with out of scale, either too big or too small.
 - o Discuss the artist’s ability to decide how to scale. Why would one choose accurate sketch vs an exaggerated one?
 - o

LUNCH (Bring your own food and drinks)

Afternoon

- Tuning in to what one is drawn to personally
 - o Discussion, drawing exercise and share out
- One more skill share (TBD) (maybe using a window view finder- a prop Jenny will bring)
- Everyone gets to choose an angle, area or perspective to focus in on for a final sketch and/or detailed drawing. Choice will be given to explore multiple offered techniques on multiple quick sketches or to hone in on one.
- Sharing at the end, if people want to.
 - o Wrap up discussion and feedback

What to Bring to the Course

All materials are provided

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Camp Chair
- 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

JENNIFER KANE is an artist, backcountry guide, and teacher born in Los Angeles, CA; she has lived in Joshua Tree since 2009. Having worked as a climbing and hiking guide in Joshua Tree National Park off and on since 2009, she has an intimate relationship with this landscape and its nuances, which she captures through black and white drawings and watercolor paintings.

From 2016-2018, Jennifer organized the Artist Volunteer Program and the Artist's Tea events for the Joshua Tree Art Innovation Laboratory (JTLab), in partnership with Joshua National Park. She currently serves as Executive Director of Arts Connection – the arts council of San Bernardino County. She received her BA in Fine Arts from Mount St. Mary's College in 2005 and her MFA in Public Practice from Otis College of Art and Design in 2016.

Her writing can also be found on KCET's Artbound, through her work on an essay for the Mojave Project, which details JTNP's early climbing history.