

ASHBROOKE



COLIN WATSON

PAINTING COURSE - OBSERVING NATURE

12TH MAY - 14TH MAY 2023

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Renowned artist, Colin Watson, will be teaching at Ashbrooke House. Colin Watson's work is held in collections worldwide including the Royal Collection and those of HRH Prince of Wales, HRH Duchess of Cornwall, the King of Morocco.

The course is open to participants of all abilities. Whilst the focus is on learning, the atmosphere is one of fun and enjoyment - 'Irish Craic' - in the idyllic setting of Ashbrooke House and The Tack Room Studio. This relaxed environment promotes the sharing of ideas both during the course and over meal times.



BIOGRAPHY: COLIN WATSON

Colin Watson lives and works in Belfast. He has held seven solo exhibitions in London, at John Martin Gallery, the Pym's Gallery and at Simon Dickinson Fine Art, as well as in Dublin, Northern Ireland and Morocco. In October 2008, Colin was invited by HRH The Prince of Wales to accompany him on the Royal Tour of Japan, Brunei and Indonesia, as his official Tour Artist.

Colin Watson has exhibited at the Royal Academy in London, the Royal Ulster Academy and the Royal Hibernian Academy, winning awards at the latter two. He was also awarded the Ireland Fund of Great Britain Annual Arts Award in 1999. His work has been included in the BP Portrait Prize Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, The Royal Society of Portrait Painters annual exhibitions and at the Discerning Eye at the Mall Galleries in London.

Colin Watson's work is held in collections worldwide, including the Royal Collection and those of HRH Prince of Wales, HRH Duchess of Cornwall, the King of Morocco. He is also represented in a number of public collections, including the Ulster Museum, the Arts Council for Northern Ireland, the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland, Limerick and the Royal Geographical Society, London with a portrait of Sir Wilfred Thesiger, the British explorer and travel writer.

Colin's teaching focuses on two principle aspects of painting and drawing from nature; firstly the importance of developing skills of observation so that we understand more fully any given subject, and secondly on acquiring the pictorial means by which to translate these observations in to pictures.

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“Although seemingly straightforward, there is something deeply profound in the activity of observing nature and translating our observations into a painting or drawing, into a picture that will go on living long after the things we witnessed have vanished and exist only as memories to be submerged by later memories.”



COURSE OVERVIEW

Focusing on painting from nature this two day course will comprise of four practical painting sessions in the unspoilt landscape of Ashbrooke Estate, set deep in the Northern Irish countryside, as well as two illustrated talks on painting.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each painting session will begin with a demonstration by Colin in the form of oil sketches in the landscape followed by practical tuition. In the evenings Colin will present illustrated talks on painting from observation and on the use of observational drawings in studio paintings, providing an art historical and theoretical context to compliment the practical aspects of the course.

ITINERARY

FRIDAY

5.00pm

Welcome

7.00pm

Talk - Painting from observation

8.00pm

Dinner

SATURDAY

9.30 - 12.30pm

Practical painting session

1.00pm

Lunch

2.00pm - 4.30pm

Practical painting session

7.00pm

Talk - On the use of observational drawings in studio paintings

8.00pm

Dinner

SUNDAY

9.30 - 12.30pm

Practical painting session

1.00pm

Lunch

2.00pm - 4.30pm

Practical painting session



ACCOMODATION

Ashbrooke House is the Dower House for the Colebrooke Estate, which has been occupied by the Brooke family for over 200 years. Formerly the home of Viscount and Viscountess Brookeborough, the house has recently been fully restored and refurbished to provide luxurious accommodation.

Guests will be provided with their own room unless otherwise requested. We can accommodate a maximum of 16 persons and the bedrooms can be configured in a variety of ways so please make us aware of your requirements. Rooms are allocated on a first come first served basis. We also use Colebrooke Cottages to accommodate guests. All options are 5 star and can be viewed at www.colebrookecottages.com

BEDROOMS

2 x master super-king bedrooms with large en-suites with roll top baths and walk-in showers
2 x super-king bedrooms which can be converted to twin beds with en-suite bath and shower
1 x super-king / twin bedroom with disabled access shower room en-suite
3 x super-king / twin bedrooms - these rooms share a separate shower room and bathroom

CATERING & DIETARY INFORMATION

The residential course is fully catered for with 3 meals per day including snacks and tea.

Those on the non-residential course are provided with lunch, snacks, coffee and tea and have the option to stay for supper for an extra £35 per night.

Please inform us of any dietary requirements in advance so we can prepare alternative options.

“We must first of all try to conscientiously represent what is seen and secondly, and with equal importance, strive to set down our inner reaction to the given subject. We must in all our enquiry and labour never lose sight of what it is that has moved us.”

PLUS ONES

We welcome ‘plus ones’. Whether your partner / friend is a painter, or not, there is plenty to do in and around Ashbrooke House.

With 1,000 acres to play in, the immediate surroundings offer miles of rambling walks, cycle routes and outdoor activities. Further afield, there is much to explore from the historic town of Enniskillen to Lough Erne and the beaches of Donegal. Don't hesitate to call us for more information.

Plus ones are required to pay an additional £350.

PRICING

Single occupancy ensuite	£650
Single occupancy shared bathroom	£598
Shared occupancy	£530
Non residential	£290

Residential price includes; Tuition, accommodation, breakfast, lunch and a 2 course dinner with snacks (homemade locally sourced meals, please let us know any dietary requirements), tea and coffee and soft drinks. All other alcoholic beverages will be available and paid for on an honesty box basis.

Non residential can stay for supper at £35pp/night.

Please note: We will require payment in full in order to secure a place on the course. The course requires a minimum of 8 participants in order to go ahead, we will reimburse any guests in full if the course is not able to take place due to low attendance. This will be clarified one month prior to the start date. Please take out travel insurance if booking flights.

EQUIPMENT

A definitive list of materials will be sent out to students after enrolment. Easels, boards, palettes and rags are provided by Ashbrooke House.



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