



Course Title	Abstraction I
Tutor	Magdalena Blasinska
Dates	10 weeks: 21 September - 30 November
Half Term	Monday 23 October - Saturday 28 October
Time	Thursdays, 10am - 5pm (4.45 - 5pm to clean-up)
Course Code	D17601P21
Level	Beginner & Intermediate
Cost	£495



What is this course about?

This abstract course is for both 'figurative' and 'abstract' artists, it will assist students in understanding some of the principles of abstract art and the connection between representational art and abstraction. Abstract artists draw from a vast range of stimuli, (visual, audio, kinetic, pure emotion or concept) it is all about distilling an experience to its essence. Over the ten weeks students will examine new visual languages, different methods of applying (and removing paint) and learn to hone their compositional eye. Analysing the works of many abstract painters will form a key part of this course. Students will gain an understanding of how to organise space and colour, how to make more 'evocative' and less 'literal' gestures, and look in more detail at the general terminology and language of abstraction. Discussion and conversation will be encouraged during the project.

What topics do we cover?

Reduction of form
Geometric abstraction
Composition
Mark making
Balancing colour and form to create harmony or disharmony
Developing an abstract painting from source inspiration

By the end of this course you will:

- Have a wide variety of abstract paintings
- A good understanding of the principles of abstraction
- Be aware how connected abstraction and representational painting are
- Develop your own unique painterly language by getting to the core of what interests you within painting
- Develop new ways of looking
- Develop new research methods for painting

How will I be taught, and what feedback and support will I get?

Your experienced tutor will support you throughout the course in both group sessions and

one-to-one support providing regular feedback, critique and constructive advice. Each course ends in a final round up session and should you wish for any specific feedback or support, please speak with your tutor at the start of your course.

Weekly breakdown

Courses at the Art Academy offer a structured approach to ensure specific subjects, skills and methods are covered. Below is a weekly breakdown of what will be covered. Please bear in mind that these classes will move with the pace of the class, so a degree of flexibility of what will be covered on which day will be employed.

Week	Date	Topic/skills covered	Location	What to bring	Model
1	21 Sep.	<p>Presentation Dialogue / Reduction During the morning, your tutor will give a presentation about their own work and their professional practice. Magdalena will emphasise the importance of the translation of mediated imagery into reduced form and abstract gesture in order to evoke psychological spaces, differing emotional temperatures, and to open up different painterly possibilities.</p> <p>In the afternoon students will be presented with images of abstract works ranging from the precursor of Modern art to Contemporary artists. This will develop into a dialogue into what abstract art means to the students.</p> <p>Reducing Form The works of key practitioners of reducing form will be studied. A selection of images of old master paintings will be available for students to use and base their initial abstract paintings upon.</p>	Studio 3	All oil paints plus painting equipment	No
2	28 Sep.	<p>Space Using a large still life and the studio environment students will explore space in an abstract composition drawing inspiration from the cubist and contemporary painters.</p>	Studio 3	Painting equipment, a shoe box, selection of chosen images	No

3	5 Oct.	<p>Shape , Space & Composition</p> <p>Shape , Space & Composition</p> <p>A.M. Visit to Tate Modern</p> <p>We will discuss how composition and various shapes held in space create specific emotional responses e.g. claustrophobia/balance /harmony/stability/fragility etc.</p> <p>Back in the Studio:</p> <p>We will discuss idea of the canvas as a working space and examine how different forms impact each other. Students will explore textures, shape, composition and space throughout exercises, which involve using collage.</p>	Studio 3	Scissors, Pritt Stick or equivalent, painting equipment	No
4	12 Oct.	<p>Colour and Form</p> <p>Students are asked to bring in a selection of images that resonate with them. The aim is to create an abstract painting that is born from the key elements of what excites them about their chosen images. We will look closer at how to use different shapes in order to create moments of tension within painting.</p>	Studio 3	Print outs of artists that you like, photographs of landscapes, objects etc. Painting equipment.	No
5	19 Oct.	<p>Motif</p> <p>During the morning students will create a non-objective painting based around a chosen structure as a starting point.</p>	Studio 3	Painting equipment	No
	26 Oct	HALF TERM			
6	2 Nov.	<p>'On Being Thoughtless'</p> <p>Using unconscious mark making, students will explore the importance of the happy accident and the chance mark in the image making process.</p>	Studio 3	Painting equipment	No

		<p>They will look at the importance of the doodle, automatic drawing, responded to stains scratches, explore brush strokes and collaborate into groups to work mark against mark.</p> <p>Students will work on a larger painting with no preconceived composition, aiming to work in a completely responsive fashion. Letting the painting direct what happens.</p> <p>We will explore the different speeds at which marks can be made and the effect this has within the logic of painting.</p>			
7	9 Nov.	<p>Non Objective Painting</p> <p>Students will respond to different pieces of music played throughout the day. The aim is to create paintings without being descriptive in a literal sense. Evocation and suggestion will be key, and your tutor will emphasise the importance of subtlety and touch. Students will draw upon the languages that they have explored and refined in the previous weeks.</p>	Studio 3	Painting equipment	No
8	16 Nov.	<p>Self Directed Project</p>	Studio 3	Oil painting equipment	no
9	23 Nov.	<p>Self Directed Project</p>	Studio 3	Oil painting equipment	no
10	30 Nov.	<p>Self Directed Project</p>	Studio 3	Oil painting equipment	no

Student Preparation Requirements

ALL STUDENTS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN MATERIALS

Spectrum Alkaflow (available in Atlantis store)

Spectrum Spectragel (available in Atlantis Store)

Drawing equipment (inc. 2B & 4B pencils)

A3 pad oil painting paper

Canvas boards of your choice

Gesso or acrylic primer (the range of choices will be discussed in the beginning of the course)

Liquin Original

Only odorless spirits, Sansodor or Zest-it (the Academy is a white spirit free environment)

Jam jar

Tear-off paper palette

Acrylic paint: Burnt Umber, Titanium White

Oil colours: Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson, French Ultramarine Blue, Cerulean Blue, Nickel Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Burnt Umber, Titanium White, Yellow Ochre, Titanium Buff
Michael Harding permanent green light or other similar colour (series 2)

Brushes: Hogs hair brushes – Filbert no. 7 & 10, round no. 4, acrylic brush round no. 2

Apron or old shirt

Old rags

Baby wipes

Household brushes (large flatter brushes used for decorating)

Surfaces (specified each week)

The Academy has created an '**Oil Painting pack**' which contains part of the basic materials necessary for this component. Please either purchase an academy painting pack directly from the Art Academy or source your the individual items from elsewhere.

An **Oil Painting Pack** (£50.00) contains:

A set of bristle brushes, both flat and round, suitable for either oils or acrylics

One tear off palette (9"x12")

One palette knife

One bottle Zest-it (250ml)

One 10"x 12" canvas board

One 10"x 14" canvas board

Two 12"x 16" canvas boards

6 Daler Rowney (*Georgian*) oil tubes: Titanium White, Cadmium Yellow, Alizarin Crimson, Cadmium Red, French Ultramarine and Burnt Umber

Certain materials can also be purchased from the Academy shop during shop hours. Please check in advance of your class if the item you require is available, as the Academy may not have this in stock.

Welcome to The Art Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming you to The Art Academy and wish you the very best for your course. If at any time you would like to speak to a member of the team please feel free to contact us using the details below.

We value feedback on all of our courses so please keep us posted on your progress.

Who can I contact for further information?

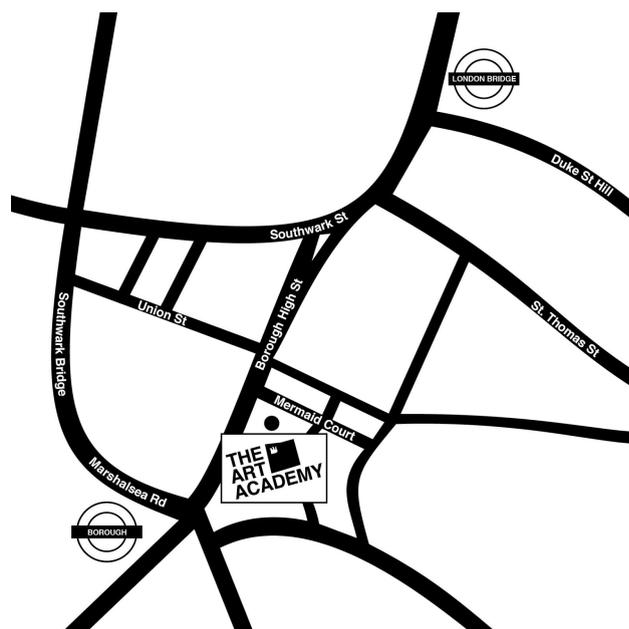
General information and advice on courses at The Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Administrator, Aimee Briginshaw:

aimee@artacademy.org.uk

Location

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations - follow signs for Borough High Street to exit. Please [click here](#) for a map.



Just moments walk from the Thames, the Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:

White Cube
Tate Modern
Jerwood Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common room located in the Barn, on the ground floor of the Mermaid Court building. Here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, five minutes walk away.

Disabled Access

We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, but if you have mobility issues, please speak to a member of the Academy team before your course starts.

Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online this will be given to you on the first session of your

course upon your arrival.

- Ensure that you wear old clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- If you wish to join any class for the next term please contact the office to re-book. Classes are becoming increasingly popular, so please book early in order to guarantee your place.

If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your co-operation and we look forward to seeing you.