



Course Title	Abstraction II
Tutor	Katharine Prendergast
Day & time	Thursdays, 10am - 5pm
Dates	20/04/17 - 22/06/17
Course Code	D6503P72
Level	All (mixed ability class) (level 1+)
Room	Studio 2
Cost	£495



What is this course about?

This is a structured course that will assist students in a further understanding of abstract painting. Over the ten weeks students will examine different approaches to abstraction. As a group you will analyse the work of both contemporary and key practitioners from the past. This will form an integral part of the course using other artist as inspiration and guidance to create your own body of works exploring similar techniques.

The course will begin with a one-day session exploring painting as a 3D form. Getting students to question the boundaries of painting and open up and play with unorthodox methods of creating a painting. The next few days will be spent inquiring geometric abstraction and then will look at the rich potential of paint itself. Students will investigate and discuss a wide array of styles and techniques of contemporary artists who attest to a constant exploration of the act and potential of painting. There will be a couple of days for the students to explore abstract works that reference scenes from the world around us, often depicting a space between one you recognise and something abstract. Then the finally two days will be a time to develop your own interest into abstraction.

What topics do we cover?

- Getting a variation of interesting marks in painting
- Responsive painting
- Reduction of form
- Geometric abstraction
- Balancing colour and form
- Using motifs as a starting point for a painting
- Examining contemporary artists' paintings
- Developing your own abstract paintings

By the end of this course you will:

Have developed techniques and methods of working in a variety of chosen manners and have developed a painting related to your interest in abstraction.

What level is the course and do I need any particular skills?

This course is suitable for all levels.

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.

About your tutor

Katharine Prendergast is a practising artist who lives and exhibits in London. She studied at St Oswald's School of Painting and City and Guilds School of Art. She has been teaching at The Art Academy since 2008.

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/ Tutor	What to bring
1	20 April	Painting as 3D a Form Exploring painting as a three dimensional object. Looking at artists such as Richard Aldrich, Florian Schmidt, Anselm Reyle, Alexis Harding and Jacob Kassay	Studio Katharine Prendergast	New or recycled stretched canvases. It's likely that you will produce more than one artwork during the day, so 2-3 small stretched canvases would be great. If you have a staple gun, scissors, canvas or linen off-cuts, old stretcher bars please bring them too. Bring paints, palette, brushes etc.
2	27 April	Geometric Abstraction - Playing with Neutrals & Failure You will create a series of abstract paintings exploring the joys of the neutrals. Playing with simple shapes and neutral colours they will combine painting and collage. You will aim to be prolific, producing an abundance of work that embraces failure	Studio Katharine Prendergast	Craft knife, ruler, glue for paper, acrylic paints (and oil paints also if you prefer using them), brushes, palette
3	4 May	Shape	Studio	A surface to paint on,

		Looking at the the inherent qualities of shapes, we will compose paintings focused on evoking a feeling.	Katharine Prendergast	this could be canvas paper. Bring paints etc.
4	11 May	Geometric Abstraction We will spend one day investigating geometry & colour in painting. We will look at artists who explore geometric abstraction as inspiration for our own paintings e.g. Michael Conrads, Tomma Abts, Garth Weiser, Hansjoerg Dobljar, Gert & Uwe Tobias and Malevich	Studio Katharine Prendergast	Bring with you an appropriate surface to work on Bring paints etc.
5	18 May	Scaffold You will be given a group of motifs which could become the scaffolding for a painting. You will then construct a painting using their chosen motifs. Having gone through many compositional sketches you will embark on one painting to be completed by the end of the day	Studio Katharine Prendergast	A medium stretched canvas, oil paints, palette, brushes, cloth rag
6	25 May	Responsive Painting You will work on a 1-2 smaller paintings with no preconceived composition, aiming to work in a completely responsive fashion and letting the painting direct what happens. There will an emphasis on exploring the rich potential of paint itself. We will look at a wide array of styles and techniques of contemporary artists who attest to a constant exploration of the act and potential of painting.	Studio Katharine Prendergast	A medium stretched canvas, oil paints, palette, brushes, cloth rag
7	1 June	Reduction Over these two weeks we will look at abstract paintings that are rooted in the world around us. The starting point for a painting could be a still life, a scene we have observed or a photograph. From this we will only be interested in depicting what really interests, allowing you to freely play with all the elements of artwork. This week we will be using photos, as inspiration we will	Studio Katharine Prendergast	Bring with you an appropriate surface to work on Bring paints etc.

		study artists' source material photos in relation to their paintings.		
8	8 June	Reduction cont. You will use your own inspiration for a painting. We will draw inspiration from artists such as Richard Diebenkorn, William Scott, Patrick Heron, Matthew Burrows, Elizabeth Neel, Coragh Thuring and more	Studio Katharine Prendergast	A large canvas, oil paints, palette, brushes, cloth rag
9-10	15 June & 22 June	What do you want to paint? The last two weeks will be an opportunity to develop your own self directed abstract paintings. You could continue to progress works started earlier on in the term or begin a new work.	Studio Katharine Prendergast	A large stretched canvas, oil paints, palette, brushes, large brushes, cloth rag

Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR OWN MATERIALS.

Below is a list of what is currently required for the course. Please also check the 'what to bring' sections above. Your tutor will advise if further materials or equipment are required as the course progresses.

- A variety of canvases
- Staple gun
- Scissors
- Stretcher bars
- Paints (acrylic and/or oil)
- Palette
- Brushes
- Cloth rag
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Only odorless spirits, Sansodor or Zest-it (the Academy is a white spirit free environment)

If you do not have your own painting materials, there is an option to order a **Painting Pack** at the time of booking which will be available when you arrive for your first class. You can purchase this via the following link; <http://artacademy.org.uk/evening-classes/materials/>

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

An **Acrylic 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 10"x 12" canvas board

One 10"x 14" canvas board

Two 12"x 16" canvas boards

8 Daler Rowney (*System 3*) acrylic tubes: Mars Black, Titanium White, Cadmium Red, Cadmium Yellow, Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Umber, Sap Green and Yellow Ochre

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 stock all items listed above.

Resources & Further Reading

Artist to look at:

Thomas Scheibitz

Jonathan Lasker

Helen Frankenthaler

Ann Pibal

Richard Diebenkorn

William Scott

Patrick Heron

Chloe Lamb

Alison Miller

Tomma Abts

Gert & Uwe Tobias

Florian Schmidt

Cordy Ryman

Alexis Harding

Phillip Guston

Joan Mitchell

Robert Ryman

Kazimir Malevich

Agnes Martin

Alberto Burri

Victor Pasmore

Bruce Newman

El Lissitzky

Moholy Nagy

Vieira Da Silva

Garth Weiser

Michael Conrads

Phillip Allen

Caragh Thuring

Matthew Burrows

Elizabeth Neel

Tomory Dodge

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 Brigginshaw:

info@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 booking.

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 (painting or drawing classes) 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.