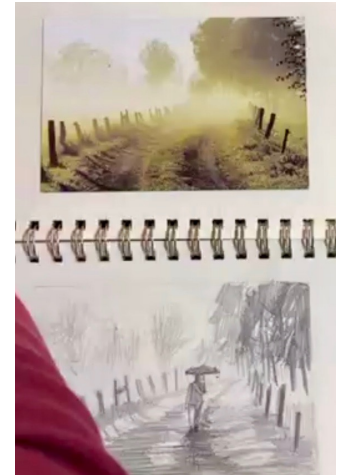


## Zoom Demonstration November 2, 2020 Sally Heston - Creating a Foggy Scene

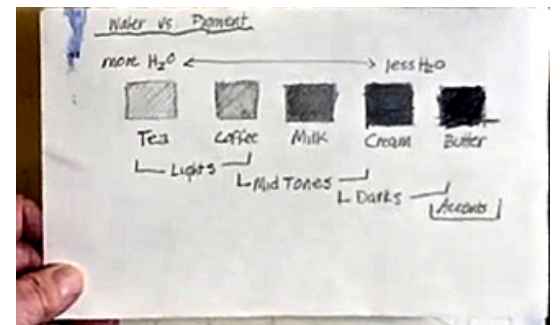
We had 27 participants in our Zoom watercolor demonstration hosted by award winning artist, **Sally Heston**. Sally's zoom setup worked perfectly throughout the evening. We could easily see every stroke she made. At the start, we asked everyone to 'mute' themselves and to use 'chat' to ask questions. Lee Peters started the session with a brief business meeting and then program director, Joan Milligan introduced our demonstrator. Sally works primarily in watercolor, pastel and acrylics. She holds a BS degree in Art Education from Indiana University of PA and a Master of Education degree in Art from the University of Pittsburgh. She now teaches watercolor classes at Cuyahoga Valley Art Center. Her art was influenced by artists/teachers Frank Webb, Mary Whyte, Fred Graff and Ted Kautzky. Sally recommended books by these same artists.



Sally shared several of her watercolors of a 'foggy' scene. Her photo reference for the demo was a misty country road. For interest, she added a person with an umbrella to the scene. [Tip: it's important to locate the head of the person in the scene close to 'eye' level, as determined in the picture.] She had previously sketched the scene using a 2B pencil on Arches 140lb. cold press paper and then masked the person & umbrella using Daniel Smith masking fluid (or Pebeo drawing gum). She uses *Shinhan Swc* brand paints because "they are buttery and juicy", similar to Holbein paints. She likes their range and color saturation.



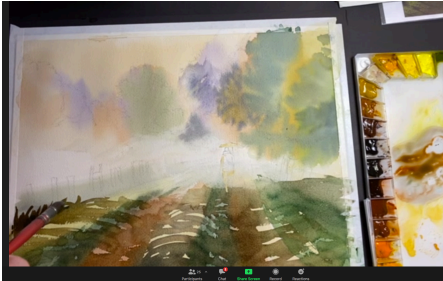
In a foggy scene, Sally said, "Things in the foreground have more value contrast and things in the background have less contrast". The first step....wet the paper entirely. Sally checked to make sure the paper was wet...enough. Next, using raw sienna, yellow ochre and then some violet on her 1 1/2" wide brush, she added pigment to the top part of the painting, stopping about 1/3 down. Leaving an unpainted band in the middle for the fog, she continued with the same yellow ochre pigment on the bottom third of the paper. As the paper started to dry, she added more color, remembering to keep soft edges and minimal contrast in the background.



Helpful chart - Water vs Pigment



In the foreground, she developed the dirt road using some yellow-green, then olive green with Prussian blue, followed by burnt sienna. Using a Kleenex and sometimes a thirsty brush (damp, almost dry brush), she dabbed the painting to create a soft 'foggy' edge across the road. At this point Sally said, "Looks good for the underpainting...the 1st layer of a 3-layer painting, finished."



For the 2nd layer, Sally used a dry brush, going darker, making dark lines across the road and leaving some light from the underpainting show through. *We wondered to ourselves, "how are those dark strokes across the road going to work?"* She lifted some paint out with a Kleenex, sometimes adding water to lift paint.



Next, Sally added the fence posts in perspective, darker in front and lighter and shorter in the distance. She continued to develop the road by adding grasses. [Asked about her favorite brush, "I have a different favorite brush every day!" Her lifter/scrub brush is an old toothbrush!] Then she worked on the trees, adding darker colors for the foreground leaves and adding some thin branches. "I'm not a super realistic painter...I just suggest things." So don't overdo the branches, just a suggestion is enough. Adding the figure as the last element, she decided on purple for the umbrella. Finally, she added spatters of green paint, concentrating them in the foreground, to add texture and bring things closer. Last, she removed the frisket from the figure and the painting was complete...a beautiful masterpiece ready for framing!



Several of us stayed connected for a brief question and answer session with Sally. Many of us were interested in how she mounts her watercolor paintings to a wooden board, like oils, instead of framing them. She shared her method and suggested we look up Brienne M. Brown, watercolor, on YouTube for 'how-to' videos.



This was a very successful Zoom demonstration. We all thank and applaud Sally Heston for this informative evening demonstration.

