

Zoom Demonstration February 1, 2021 Rick Surowicz - Painting a Mountain Scene

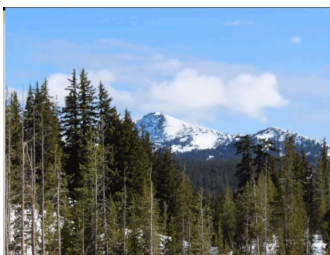
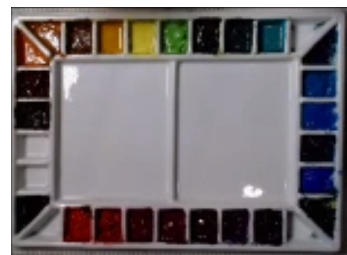
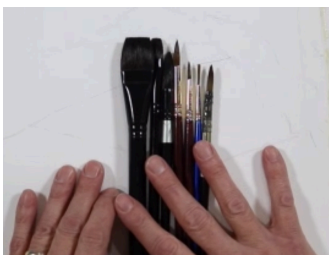
We had 25 participants in our Zoom watercolor demonstration hosted by award winning local artist, **Rick Surowicz**. Rick started off the meeting saying how much he loves painting in transparent watercolor.

He likes landscapes, negative painting, texture and patterns. He suggests and interprets the subjects he paints. His YouTube instructional videos, all 250 of them, are very popular with his 50,000+ followers. Check out his very popular website, RSurowiczart.com. Here are a few samples of his work . . .



Rick demonstrated painting a mountain scene. His zoom setup was perfect. On the right side in small boxes lined vertically, we could see his reference, his paint tray and himself. Then, on the left we saw his entire work surface. Rick suggested that we pin his 'image' on zoom in order to stay focused on his screen. He likes to do a sketch first, followed by a value study and then a color study, all in his sketchbook. There were several things he stressed that we should learn...the color wheel, value scale, moisture content and how to run a good beaded wash. How to run a good bead, using gravity as your friend, is in his fundamental YouTube series, of which there are 24. He demonstrated this for us at the end.

Before starting the painting, Rick showed us his supplies. He shared this image of the brushes he likes to use, including a 1" and 1/2" wash brush. He uses 140lb. cold press paper...a good quality paper, such as L'Aquarelle from France, is a priority for him. His paints are organized by color, cool to warm, in a ceramic paint tray. He uses lots of tissues to blot paint and a rag to control the moisture in his brush. He's not averse to using masking fluid as needed to preserve the whites. Two water containers and a hairdryer round out his supply list. Occasionally, he'll use a spray bottle of water to soften edges....a Holbein watercolor spritz sprayer.



To quote Rick, as he started painting, "Be in control, but don't control the watercolor. Let watercolor be watercolor." *Tip: a word about moisture, the surface is either saturated, damp or dry. When paper is damp, there's a risk of a backwash when using a fully loaded brush. Tip #2: remember your composition is the whole paper, consider what's happening along the edges of the paper.* At this point, Rick talked more about the importance of learning the color wheel and value scale....hue, chroma and value. (Look up 'The Munsell Color System'...interesting!)





Turning his paper upside down, Rick started by painting the sky, using cerulean blue, 'putzing' around until he got something he liked, adding clear water to soften the edges and taking up paint and moisture with a tissue. For the mountains he used violet, red violet, and blue, gradating the color down the shadow side. He added a line of gray-green trees on the mountain's edge, spraying to soften them slightly. He then added a bright lime green to indicate where the light was entering the painting and then darker trees (sap green, royal blue & red) in the foreground.

After removing the masking on the dominant trees and adding a darker color to round the shape, he added a blue glaze for snow and a darker blue for the shadows. Last, he selectively spritzed the paper and dabbed it with a tissue to create some texture. And, the result...an amazingly beautiful mountain scene! We thank Rick for this very interesting demonstration and learning experience enjoyed by all.

