**Continuing to Explore Acrylics 4 week course**

**Acrylics are a convenient and versatile medium. They were designed to replace oils and provide the volume and consistency of oils. Also, like oils, they can be used as glazes and as impasto depending on the acrylic mediums that you are prepared to explore. Acrylics offer the convenience of speed as they dry quickly and also wonderful tonal nuance when layers of translucent colour are added by layering glazes.**

**Acrylic mediums can change the consistency of acrylic paint and allow you more flexibility and creative freedom than any other type of paint.**

**The trick is to use the right ones for the right situation.**

**4 week course.**

**Week one**

Look at and discuss –

This is very much a demonstration and discussion lesson, but equally there will be opportunity to try things out and to do some practical experimentation.

We will look at

Acrylic mediums and the substrates available - Consider their attributes and potentials.

Substrates, eg. paper or canvas, fabrics and textured applications.

Gessos available – Louise will give information on how to make your own gesso or thinners.

Look at the various techniques achieved when using the variety of mediums available.

Discuss - Impasto, glazing, layering, mark-making, drawing, scratching through, spraying, air brushing, and paint pens

Consider how we would start an acrylic painting. Think about colour and neutral ground colour, take in to consideration composition, tonal value, perspective underlay colour, lights and darks.

Louise will bring along a variety of different examples of methods and approaches to inspire and kick start your creative process.

We will get started with impasto acrylic painting

**You will therefore need**

Acrylic paints

Acrylic impasto or heavy body medium. Louise can supply this if you do not have any

Brushes

Pallet knives (Louise will bring some of these along)

Any mediums you would like to consider and ask questions about

Papers that are suitable for acrylic paints eg paper primed with acrylic gesso or papers designed for use with acrylic paints. However Louise will bring along some papers you can try.

Or canvas, canvas board or paper to paint on.

**Week Two**

In this lesson we will paint using the impasto painting process. This involves the application of thick bodied acrylics.

Louise will demo how to mix acrylic paints with impasto mediums, she will supply impasto medium for you to use.

Using impasto is a wonderful technique which only permits bold mark-making. The process teaches you to build confidence in your own decision making. In many ways you relinquish control but in fact you learn to trust in your own process and ability.

**You will need**

Acrylics

Acrylic impasto or heavy body medium. Louise can supply this if you do not have any

Any mediums that you would like to try or to ask Louise about

Paint brushes

Palette knives.

Canvas, canvas board or paper to paint on.

**Week Three**

In this lesson we will paint an image that requires a series of glazing to add depth of colour and richness.

Louise will let you know the image that we will be painting in the previous lesson. The idea will be to have a monochrome impasto image ready so that the lesson can be spent developing rich and subtle colour nuance by layers glazes of beautiful hues.

**You will need**

Acrylics

Any mediums that you would like to try or to ask Louise about

Paint brushes

Palette knives.

Canvas, canvas board or paper to paint on with an impasto monochrome already on the canvas or paper. This is not imperative as this can be done in the first half of this lesson.

Acrylic glazing medium. Louise can supply this if you do not have any.

**Week Four**

In this lesson we will combine these two techniques. You will create an image that uses textures from the impasto technique that are then glazed to create shadows and reflections that are subtle, rich and nuanced. We will also look at scratching through, unique mark-making, collage and

**You will need**

Acrylics

Any mediums that you would like to try or to ask Louise about

Paint brushes

Palette knives.

Canvas, canvas board or paper to paint on

Acrylic glazing medium and acrylic impasto or body medium. Louise can supply this if you do not have any.

In this lesson we will take a further look at the substrates that can enhance the image when used with consideration and sensitivity. The substrate is of great importance, it can respond to the medium and to your line, gesture and approach. Once you become aware and sensitive to the attributes of your mediums and substrates you can develop a rapport and dialogue between your style and the potential of the mediums themselves.

In this last lesson we can discuss what has been learnt, this will be done both verbally but also by directly experiencing a variety of approaches that Louise will bring in for us all to experiment with and learn from.