

John Salminen – “Realism Through Design” - Materials

John will share his approach to painting the urban scene in watercolor. He will help participants in all aspects of painting a representational cityscape or town scene – choosing the subject, adding mood and creating emotional content, lighting the scene for dramatic effect, using photo reference in a meaningful way and most importantly, strengthening and enhancing representational painting through design. The workshop will include demonstrations, critiques and lots of one-on-one individual help. Whether you’ve never tried painting cityscapes or are an experienced urban painter, this workshop will be an invaluable opportunity to gain new painting insights.

Bring your usual watercolor painting supplies, to include:

- One or two full sheets of 140 or 300 lb Arches Cold Pressed watercolor paper, 22 x 30. Arches is tough paper that stands up well to the process we’ll be using. We’ll paint on full sheets, completing one painting during the workshop.
- A painting board is recommended to tape your paper to. A piece of foam core is lightweight, can be cut in half and taped and works well.
- I use a variety of professional grade paints, including Stephen Quiller, Winsor Newton, M Graham and Daniel Smith paints. Bring whatever you have and like to use (as long as they’re professional grade paints), in a useable palette.
- Brushes: 2” minimum flat brush, 1” flat brush, ½” flat brush, #12 pointed brush, #8 pointed brush, #4 pointed brush, 2” and/or 3” hake brush. These are a minimum. Bring your favorites as well. We’ll use the hake brush for blending.
- Sketchbook, approximately 9 x 12”, and your favorite drawing tools.
- 2” masking tape. Just the hardware store variety, not the blue art tape.
- Masking fluid, NOT permanent.
- Snapcutter – just the inexpensive hardware version. These are more flexible than exacto knives and easier to use.
- Please bring a completed drawing of the scene you want to paint.

Some thoughts on photo references:

Your photos should be of street scenes - close to home or farther away, town or city. These scenes can include people as accents if wanted.

Look for an image that has a visual pathway through the composition.

Look for an image with a defined foreground, middle-ground and background.

Look for dramatic lighting or atmospheric effects such as fog or rain.

Most importantly, look for an image you’d like to paint. If it contains some of the above suggestions, it will be a great painting.