



Oliver West
Landscape Painter Printmaker

Plein air Printmaking Workshops



Plein Air Printmaking - Penwith, West Cornwall

Oliver has been running arts courses, holidays and excursions since 1995. With groups of approximately ten people Oliver's broad artistic skills and one-to-one tuition ensure a unique experience, with many people returning annually.

These tailor made print making courses provide ideal opportunities for making new friendships, exploring and exchanging creative ideas and enjoying some of the most beautiful places in the world. To date Oliver has run Plein Air Printmaking courses in both the U.K and also further afield in locations such as Switzerland, Turkey,



Plein Air Printmaking Holiday Course

This Plein Air experience of mobile printmaking will take you out into the wilds of West Cornwall. This printmaking experience is suitable for beginners and specialists alike. Over the five days you will get to see the true diversity of the landscape in the Penwith area.



With the use of the mobile workshop facilities you will be working directly in the countryside preparing, making and proofing images without leaving the chosen location. Three printing presses will be available enabling you to experiment with a number of Printmaking processes, such as engraving and drypoint, etching, woodblock and monoprinting techniques.

Tuition

Tuition is made available on an individual basis to further encourage your preferred approach. The beauty of this experience allows people to work at their own pace. Most people will return home with the experience of four different printmaking processes, multiple proofs showing the process, a final finished proof and sometimes a part edition ready for sale in their next show.



Taking the normal Plein Air Printmaking approach, we will be making final decisions on choice of location for the day making the most of prevailing weather and atmospheric conditions on either coast or an inland location. A suggested structure of the five days will be discussed on arrival allowing all participants to register their interest in their preferred locations.



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Materials

Materials will be available to purchase as used. The average daily cost for materials is around £ 12 per day. Please feel free to bring your own preferred arts materials as well as an A3 sketchpad and a range of pencils eg: H + B + 2B + 6B + EE pencils. However this is not an essential requirement.

Please do not hesitate to contact Oliver for advice on materials.



Plein Air Printmaking Experience

A number of types of printmaking will be encouraged, particularly the fast process of dry point engraving alongside traditional etching and monoprinting techniques. The faster process give ample opportunity to capture changes in the moment by moment weather conditions.

Other relief printmaking processes such as woodblock and lino printing will also be facilitated.

Here is a brief description of one of the main processes we will use...



The Etching Process

Etching is the process of using strong acid to cut into the unprotected parts of a metal surface to create a design in intaglio in the metal. As an intaglio method of printmaking it is, along with engraving, the most important technique for old master prints, and remains widely used today.

In pure etching, a copper, zinc or steel plate is covered with an acid resistant wax. The artist then scratches an image in the wax with a pointed etching needle, exposing the bare metal. The plate is then dipped in a bath of acid, technically called the 'mordant', and the acid bites into the metal where it is exposed, leaving behind lines sunk into the plate.



The depth of this 'etch' is controlled by the amount of time the acid is allowed to 'bite' the metal. After removing the remaining wax, the plate is inked all over, and then the ink wiped off the surface, leaving ink in the etched lines.

The plate is then put through a high-pressure printing press (similar to an old washing mangle) together with a sheet of dampened paper. The paper picks up the ink from the etched lines, revealing a faithful mirror image of the etched drawing.



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Lunches

Lunches will be charged at £9.50 per day this includes snacks and hot and cold drinks throughout the day. This however is optional. Please choose the appropriate option on the booking form and make the appropriate payment in advance.



Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided Olivers home in Marazion with access to beautiful views of St Michael's mount and the surrounding bay (as seen above). Alternative accommodation can be found a short walk away in the ancient town of Marazion itself.



Weather Conditions

Please also be warned that the exciting and ever changing weather conditions in Cornwall will require a varied range of clothing from hot summer wear to shower proof outer wear.



Booking Process

Please download the booking form and return either by email or post with payment either by BACS or cheque. For BACS payments please contact me for appropriate account details.

When booking please state whether you wish for further information on accommodation in Marazion or whether you would prefer to make your own arrangements. Day visitors please state whether you would like to take advantage of the lunch provision and if necessary stating any specific dietary requirements that you may have.

To avoid disappointment please book early as there is limited availability.

For further information, booking enquires, accommodation or any other enquiries please contact Oliver using the details given below:

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