

Hi and happy Spring wishes to you!

Thanks for signing up for the one-day **Composition Workshop** on **Saturday, April 23rd** at the Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church (1146 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh PA) from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

I have always believed in strong composition and I believe that out of all the concepts in fine art, Composition truly is King. Just like good music is based on musical theory, so too, can visual composition be based on harmonic "chords" and math variations. Think of it like making music with a painting.....

Below is the materials list for the class. Although this is not a pastel workshop and you do not need to bring pastels, the concepts that we will go over will help you with planning any painting that you want to work on in *any* medium.

Be sure to bring the following...

- pencils - a light one and any dark one. (like HB and then a 6B)
- a red pen
- a yellow colored pencil.
- a sketchbook - at least 11x14"
- a sketchbook or notepad to take notes.
- a ruler or a triangle.
- an eraser- any kind
- a book of tracing paper. at least 8 x 10"
- a light grey, a dark grey and a black marker. I strongly suggest bringing a small set of fat or thin kid's Crayola markers (which will include greys) since they are cheap and non-toxic. Professional markers are great, but if we are all using them, there will be a strong smell in the air!
- 10 - 20 Photo references *and/or* sketches of designs that you would like to build into compositions/ideas for paintings.
- an open mind!!!!

The system of design that I will be teaching is called the "Pythagorean Theorem of Harmonic Divisions of the Rectangle" whew! (this is why I didn't mention it until now..... sounds scary! but don't worry! you are gonna love it!!!

Also, if you are not familiar with this system, and would like to get some reading in regarding it, then I would suggest the book "Classical Painting Atelier" by Juliette Aristedes. You only need to read Chapter 2- (probably a few times) to start to get familiar with the concepts. I warn you, if you do, it is not easy reading, but please don't let that intimidate you. Once you start using a hands-on approach, you will find that making decisions about composition will get easier and easier. *Promise!*

Also, a small side note- any painting that you design during the workshop will be ineligible for any kind of local or national juried show or exhibition. Once you have the concepts, then you are

off to the races to create your own solid paintings! This takes the pressure off too, because now you can just *create* in class and not worry about designing for a certain show or event. I thank you ahead of time for your understanding on this matter.

I look forward to seeing you very soon! If you have any questions, please let me know!
Christine Swann