

Painting Composition

A 5 Week Course Learning to Creatively Craft Your Pictures

FOR INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED ARTISTS

Weekly Classes Start Thursday June 18, 2026 — 6:30-9:00pm

The study of color and composition are usually taught as separate classes because they are seen as different aspects of painting. I prefer to see them as a whole and both as part of the overall design of a picture. We will explore the fascinating concept of visual weight and how color, shape and value all play a part in aesthetic picture design. This will help you be more creative in crafting a unique picture.

I will help you learn how to be more creative with skills you already have.

You will learn:

- Picture Design: Color, Shape and Value
- How to Use Visual Psychology
- Value Sketch Planning
- How to Choose Good Photo Reference
- How to Use Photo Reference
- Confidence to be Creative
- When to Draw Outside the Lines
- How to Learn from Other Painters

What to Bring:

- 1 or more paintings for critique and to help see what else you could do to make it more visually interesting.
- Sketch Pad/Book 8x10 or larger—We will be doing numerous small sketches.
- Charcoal or Ebony Pencils—You need to be able to sketch dark to light values.
- Several photo references you may want to use in a painting.
- Oil Painting Supplies (see supplies list)—at least 4 or more surfaces (canvas boards or pad) to paint on.
- You are welcome to work in other color media.
- Small plastic bags/store bags (to dispose of used paper towels and unused paint) **These need to go home with you.**

Costs & Info

\$250 for all 5 classes • \$50 deposit to hold your spot
\$200 balance due on first day of class—June 18
(Refunds on deposit if you cancel at least 10 days before first class)
Each student will have use of an easel and a small table.
Students are responsible to purchase their own supplies listed on next page.

For questions call Rachel at 616-780-5521 or
e-mail: rachel@jimconnellystudio.com

Send deposit checks to:
Jim Connelly Studio
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About the Instructor

Jim holds a Master of Arts degree in Illustration from Syracuse University and has taught as an adjunct instructor at Kendall College of Art & Design and Grand Valley State University. His work has been shown in galleries and museums nation wide including the Norman Rockwell Museum, National Baseball Hall of Fame and The Museum of Western Art.

jimconnellystudio.com

Materials List

For the Painting Composition Course, you just need sufficient supplies to paint in oil or other color media (ie. watercolor, acrylic, pastel or oil pastel). Bring multiple surfaces to paint on.

Everyone will need:

- Drawing Sketch Pad/Book 8x10 or larger—We will be doing numerous small sketches.
- Charcoal or Ebony Pencils—You need to be able to sketch dark to light values.
- Several photo references you may want to use in a painting.
- Paper Towels
- Masking Tape (I use green 3M tape) Lowes/HomeDepot
- Small plastic bags/store bags (to dispose used paper towels and unused paint) These need to go home with you.