

Whimsical Watercolour Illustration Class Outline (focus on houses and environment)

Description : a two day workshop to learn how to illustrate environment and houses in a whimsical and fun way. Come and share a watercolour experience with Charlotte Philtjens, children's book illustrator and go home with a magical illustration !

Friday, 3 hours (from 6-9)

- 1) Introduction : who I am as an illustrator and why I draw whimsical houses. My background and experience as a children's book illustrator, my love for ghost stories and how it all ties in with my art. (show some of my pieces)
- 2) My inspirations : old buildings in Telegraph Creek, ghost stories, other illustrators. (show other people's art that inspire me)
- 3) Intro to perspective (video), nothing too complicated, just the basics.
- 4) Choose a picture of a house/building from a magazine that you like.
- 5) Draw thumbnails of what you want to illustrate with that building. I'll explain why I use thumbnails and what is important in them. It doesn't have to be the view point seen in the picture, your imagination is important. (Here people with more experience can choose to go with a view point that they imagine, people with less experience can copy the view point from the image).
- 6) Quick explanation of the rule of thirds + talk about complementary colours. Why I almost never use pure black in my illustrations or mix my colours with white.
- 7) Choose a background for your illustration if you like (again, less experienced people can choose to do without background). Explain how I choose my backgrounds.
- 8) Look for colour inspiration (ideally people would have access to internet for this). Explain what I look for before diving into 'scrolling' endlessly for inspiration.
- 9) Going home thinking about what you would like your painting to be like, a good night sleep solves a lot of problems for me! Having a fresh look at your work in the morning is usually very helpful.

Saturday, 6 hours (from 10-5 with lunch break)

- 1) Warm up exercise : drawing straight lines, loops and waves with pencil, pen and then watercolour brushes + introduction to different effects we can create with q-tips, paper towel, salt... and see if any could be useful to your illustrations.
- 2) Drawing your building with pencil on watercolour paper, making sure the details are closer to the viewer only, to give depth.

- 3) Inking process. What I use for inking and why.
- 4) Choosing where the lights will be and use masking fluid to protect the pure whites. Drawing arrows to remind yourself where the light will hit.
- 5) After setting painter's tape around the edges of the paper, choose a background colour that will cover the entire illustration, using a sponge. (for those choosing to paint a background) Explain what I use and why.
- 6) Choosing one colour for the shades and place them.
- 7) Paint your other colours, staying light in colour as you can always add more to make it darker. Remembering to use complementary colours for the main parts.
- 8) Use the q-tips, paper towel or rough brush to scrape away at the paint and bring more 'light' in.
- 9) Use of coloured pencils for finishing and accentuating contrasts.
- 10) Final touches with white if necessary.
- 11) Conclusion and any extra questions answered.

List of supplies

- watercolour paper around 16"x12" or 14"x10" , 140lbs.
- set of watercolours
- brushes, round synthetic, I use mostly a #6 and #10 for watercolour + cheap fine brushes to use with masking fluid (they will be garbage when we're done)
- a small container of epsom salt and/or fine salt
- masking fluid
- a big box of q-tips + paper towel or toilet paper
- coloured pencils and sharpeners
- school pencils and erasers
- fine point black sharpies (it is important that it is a sharpie and we don't want the ink to bleed when going over with water)
- magazines showing houses, cabins, buildings...
- sponges
- painter's tape (easy to remove)
- white gouache (ideal) or acrylic