

Workshop by J. Ken Spencer

Highland Valley Studios - May 12-14, 2010

Course description- "From Concept to Completion"

Cost- \$350 per person

This workshop is designed to help the artist use thumbnail drawings, photographic reference and small plein air or studio color sketches to prepare for a studio painting. Emphasis will be given primarily to the studies. Several matters relating to finished work will be addressed also.

The focus of this course will be to use small studies in order to explore dynamic compositions and establish color and value ideas before getting into a finished work. Once the painting has a good composition and the artist knows where he/she wants to go with value and color, the final painting can then be approached with greater purpose and authority. Spending a few hours to work out exactly what is to be done with the painting can make the experience of painting large much more successful. No matter what size the finished painting will be, it is always helpful to have clearly in mind the purpose and motive of the painting. The exercises and ideas discussed in this workshop will help with all aspects of creation.

Students will paint several small outdoor paintings with the purpose of using them to paint a larger, more dynamic finished painting. Ken will demonstrate each step in the process.

Points to be covered will be-

- Painting from life
- Using the camera to compose reference
- Thumbnails
- Color studies
- Plein air studies
- Variations in composition
- When is the painting done?