

## **"DARE TO PAINT AN ABSTRACT" with Barry Rafuse, SFCA**

The course title was chosen to attract artists interested in painting abstracts. It was also intended to challenge painters to paint outside their comfort zones. For these reasons, participants should consider this a time to explore and stretch their painting skills.

The following materials are recommended, but each artist should simply use discretion. If the painter normally uses watercolour, then this could be the time to try something different like acrylic or mixed media. If the artist usually paints on small surfaces, then now could be the time to go large. Place yourself in a situation where you cannot "control" end results.

### **SURFACE MATERIALS**

Canvas, paper, panel board - whatever you wish to use. I will be using canvas. Consider going larger than normal. There will be some warm up exercises involving 8x10" paper sheets (or other sizes of your choice). You might consider using a water colour pad.

### **PAINTING MATERIALS**

Acrylics, water colour, gouache, pastels, oil paint/sticks, gesso - your choice of colours or brands. I will be using combined mediums for the demo.

### **DRAWING/SKETCHING MATERIALS**

Pencil, conte, crayons, graphite, charcoal, ink - totally optional. If you have not combined mediums in the past, this would be a good place to try.

### **TEXTURE BUILDING MATERIALS**

Acrylic mediums, gels, tissue paper, canvas - very discretionary. Building or including texture very optional. I will be using it.

### **TOOLS**

Pail, masking tape, brushes, spray bottle, old rags, paper towelling, palette knives, hair dryer, scissors, eraser, sand paper, tooth brush, saran wrap, cheese cloth.

This is all very discretionary. This could be an excellent opportunity for you to explore with a new technique or an unfamiliar product. If a large paint brush would scare you, pack it. If a fork would make a good scratching tool, throw it in.

### **INSPIRATIONAL GUIDES**

It is helpful to have photographs or objects available. They can guide the artist through a painting process, but they are also helpful to the instructor as reference. October is the month for patterned, colourful leaves - be creative.

Remember - painting is fun. Right?