COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Introduction to Oil Painting

Instructor: Brian Kearney
Brian Kearney is a writer and artist from County Clare in Ireland. He is a graduate of the Creative Writing Masters program at St Andrews University and trained in the techniques of classical realist drawing and painting with Tenaya Sims at the Georgetown Atelier in Seattle. A specialist in oil portraiture, his writing and illustration have also appeared in Hobart, The Florida Review and Denver Quarterly.

Course Times: Thursdays 1:00-3:00 (Sept 19-October 10, 2019)

Course Location: Ruffatto Hall, Room 334

Course Description: This class will introduce some of the fundamental concepts and techniques that enable the artist to capture the world around them in oil paints. Through discussion and demonstration of the concepts of drawing, value and color, students will gain a familiarity with the medium of oil paint and take their first steps in using it to recreate the beauty of the world they live in.

Session #1: Drawing for Painting: This session will introduce some basic techniques for drawing what you see and show how they form the foundation of representational painting.

Session #2: Capturing Value: This session introduces the concept of value, the value scale, how to see value in the world around you and how to use it in your paintings to create a convincing sense of solidity and form.

Session #3: Warmer, Cooler: This session introduces color through a discussion of color temperature and the color wheel, teaching students to understand oil color in terms of hue, saturation and value.

Session #4: Putting it all Together: This session will show students how to plan and execute a simple still life in oils by putting together everything they’ve learned so far.

Recommended Books or Materials:

Session #1: A pad of 18x24 smooth newsprint paper; a soft or medium charcoal pencil - General’s, Conte and Prismacolor are good brands. Subsequent sessions: bristle brushes for oil painting, Ivory Black, Titanium White, Yellow Ochre (or similar), Cadmium Red (or similar) oil paints, Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits, canvas paper and a palette. The expense and variety of oil painting supplies can be endless – the first session will include a discussion of how students can get started without breaking the bank or spending a lot of money on things they don’t need.