

# Susan Abbott

## Vermont Landscape Painting Retreats

**Thursday, August 17th, 7pm--Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017**  
(An evening meeting Thursday, 7:00 pm and 5 painting days  
(Friday, August 18th--Tuesday, August 22nd, 9:00 am--5:00 pm)



*Susan Abbott, "Adelaide's Pond", 16" x 20", oil on linen panel*

Join artist and international workshop instructor Susan Abbott in beautiful rural Vermont for an intensive landscape painting retreat. The class will focus on painting plein air in the fields, farms, and gardens of this famed rural countryside, and continue in the studio, where we'll work on composition and color using Susan's extensive library and slides as a resource. There will be ample time for personal instruction and critiques. This intensive art retreat will send you home inspired, and with new skills as a landscape painter.

Students can work in watercolor, oil, acrylic or pastel. Instruction is in watercolor and oil. Some prior painting experience is required. Class size is limited to fifteen.

**Cost: \$575. (includes lunches, snacks, and instruction.)**

\$150. deposit returned with registration form will reserve your place. Includes five days studio and plein air instruction (9:00 am-5:00 pm); dessert get-together first evening; daily beverages, snacks, and wine with critiques; five delicious homemade gourmet lunches. (Not included in fee: transportation, lodging, breakfast and dinners.)

## Location

Susan Abbott's 1850's farmhouse and studio are settled in the woods and meadows of northern Vermont, above the town of Plainfield, and across a country road from the six hundred acre Marshfield Town Forest.

Twenty minutes away is Montpelier, the smallest state capital, a charming and lively town with restaurants, bookstores, shops, theaters and an art supply store.



*Susan's studio and garden*

## Workshop activities

The workshop is a combination of studio classes and plein air painting, with Susan teaching innovative approaches to color and composition indoors, and then taking those lessons outside to work directly from the landscape.

The main topics the workshop focuses on are: selecting plein air subjects, drawing the motif quickly, value composition, color value and temperature, color composition, and improving painting technique. We'll look at many examples of landscape paintings, from British watercolor to the Impressionists and contemporary landscape painters.

Because of our small class size, Susan will be available to work with each student personally, helping you to develop an individual direction in your work, and answering your questions on approaches to landscape and other aspects of your painting. She will instruct and demonstrate in both oils and watercolors. Students may also work in acrylics or pastel.

## Daily Schedule

9:00 am: arrive at Susan's studio

9:00-9:30 am: coffee and discussion on focus for the day

9:45-12:45 pm: plein air painting session at nearby site

1:00-1:45 pm: healthy gourmet lunch (prepared with fresh ingredients from home garden and local farms by Susan's husband, an excellent cook!)

2:00-4:30 pm: plein air painting session or studio session (depending on weather) continuing with day's painting focus

4:30-5:00 pm: wine, snacks and critique of day's work in studio

*See photos from the workshop here: <http://www.susanabbott.com/workshop-album/>*



*One of many lovely painting sites near Susan's studio*

## Plein air painting sites

Vermont is world famous for its unique blend of charming villages, small-scale family farms, and scenic back roads. Gardens, ponds, farms and fields abound near Susan's studio, and all are wonderful subjects for paintings. The weather in summer or fall is generally fine for outside work, with low humidity, clear skies, warm temperatures, and flowers in bloom. Susan's studio has ample space for critiques and classes during any rainy weather we may have.

## Supplies

Susan will be working in watercolor and oil, and acrylics and pastels are also welcome. In the studio we'll be doing faster exercises, so either watercolor, gouache or acrylic will work for those paintings. You'll want an easel for painting outside. Susan will send a complete supply list as the workshop gets closer.

## Teaching philosophy



Susan recently received this evaluation from a student:

*"I want to compliment you on the workshop. It was wonderful and substantive. I tire of self professed art gurus gathering little old ladies together to spend half a day demonstrating their work and the other half making us feel bad that we don't paint like they do. Meanwhile, I am armed with new color courage and some actual art education. "*

Another participant in the retreat commented:

*"Thank you so much for such a wonderful and productive week. It was inspiring to be in that community of painters and have such a beautiful part of Vermont for subjects. Thank you so much for the incredible wealth of information you imparted and your accepting and encouraging manner. You are a gifted and natural teacher and the class exceeded all expectations."*

Susan's goal in teaching is to help you develop your own individual painting style, while also emphasizing both basic and more complex approaches to landscape painting. Her classes emphasize understanding the language of visual art, especially color and composition, and not "how-to" paint specific subjects or in a particular style.

Susan also emphasizes learning from art history, and she provides a broad exposure to both master painters and contemporary artists. She wants you to leave her workshops enthused about your own painting, and also with an appreciation of art as an always challenging, ever-engaging lifelong journey.

You can find more student comments on Susan's teaching here:

<http://www.susanabbott.com/comments-on-teaching/>

## Getting to the Workshop

Montpelier is an eleven-hour drive from Washington, six hours from New York City, and three hours from Boston or Montreal.

Burlington International is the closest airport (45 minutes from Montpelier) and serviced by Jet Blue, United, U.S. Air, Continental and other carriers. Southwest flies into Manchester, NH (3 hours from Marshfield.) Students can rent a car at either airport. We will be carpooling to painting sites during the workshop.

Amtrak's Vermonter train stops at Montpelier-Barre Junction, and runs from Union Station, D.C. and Penn Station NYC. It's approximately an eleven-hour trip from DC by train.

## Meals

Breakfast will be available at your lodging. A delicious lunch, snacks and beverages will be served in Susan's home adjacent to her studio. Dinner is on your own, either in the Plainfield area (you'll need a car) or in one of many Montpelier restaurants. We will provide restaurant suggestions.

## Lodging

Students can stay in Montpelier, where there are inns, hotels and bed and breakfasts, or in a country inn, farmhouse b & b, self-catered farmhouse or motel near Susan's studio in Marshfield. Students book their own lodging. **Reserve well in advance as rooms fill quickly.**

Below are suggestions for lodging. If you go on the linked websites, you can get a sense of the style and offerings of each place. Feel free to call Susan for more information.

### **Marshfield lodging (rural):**

*Hollister Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast*

<http://www.hollisterhillfarm.com/>

This is a very pleasant small working farm serving a full farm breakfast.

*¼ mile from studio*

*Marshfield Inn and Motel*

<http://www.marshfieldinn.com/index.html>

This motel is modestly priced, simple, clean and friendly, on Route 2. Serves breakfast.

*2 miles from studio*

*Kate Smith Home*

[weaverkate334@gmail.com](mailto:weaverkate334@gmail.com) 802-426-3073

A charming rural home that can be reasonably rented by one to four students.  
Full kitchen, self-catered breakfast (not a b and b.)  
Also a studio apartment may be available.  
*2 miles from studio*

*Fruitlands Bed and Breakfast*  
<http://www.fruitlands.net/index.htm>  
A small organic farm with llamas.  
*10 miles from studio*

*Pie in the Sky Farm and B and B*  
This B and B has suites with kitchen or bedrooms with shared bath.  
<http://www.pieinsky.com/>  
*5 miles from studio*

*Judith Henkin's home*  
My very nice neighbor rents a bedroom in her home, with kitchen privileges.  
<http://www.airbnb.com/rooms/62872#photos>  
*1/4 mile from studio*

### **Montpelier lodging (20 minutes from studio):**

Montpelier is a nice little city, where within a four-block area you can find a variety of restaurants, small-scale shopping (including an art supply store), bookstores, two cinemas, a theater, bars and cafes, a gym, and walking paths.

**The Montpelier website** has good information about the area, and more lodging possibilities, including the recommended places below:  
<http://www.montpelier-vt.org/attractions/index.cfm>

*The Inn at Montpelier*  
<http://www.innatmontpelier.com/>  
This is a mid-size, comfortable old-fashioned hotel on a quiet downtown street, serving a continental breakfast.

*The Capitol Plaza*  
<http://www.capitolplaza.com/>  
The Plaza is a larger, more traditional hotel, downtown and across from the Statehouse, with a restaurant and Starbucks onsite.

*Betsy's Bed and Breakfast*  
<http://betsysbnb.com/>  
A popular Victorian b and b on a quiet side street that serves a full breakfast.

*Comfort Inn Maplewood*  
<http://www.comfortinnmontpelier.com/>  
A motel near the interstate.

Please call Susan at (802) 454-1621, or email her at [sa@susanabbott.com](mailto:sa@susanabbott.com) with any questions about the Vermont Landscape Painting Retreats. We hope you can join us!

***To register please fill out the form on the next page.***

## About the Instructor



Susan Abbott graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA and MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute, College of Art. She has worked as a professional artist since that time, exhibiting in galleries and museums around the country. She has painted commissions for numerous corporations and individuals including Oprah Winfrey.

Susan's work has appeared in publications that include "American Artist", "International Artist" and "Watercolor Magazine", and has been featured on NPR's Diane Rehm Show and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Reviewers have praised Abbott's "virtuosity" and "dazzling skill in the unforgiving medium of watercolor" and have described her pieces as "fantastic studies of color and form and sublime everyday epics." In addition to her career as an exhibiting artist, she is a popular teacher of art workshops in Italy, India, Provence, Paris, Spain, the Bahamas, and other sites around the world.

For more information about Susan's work, visit <http://www.susanabbott.com>.

## Registration for the 2017 Vermont Painting Retreat

To reserve your place, please send a deposit of \$150.00 paid to Susan Abbott and a completed registration form to: Susan Abbott, 2435 Hollister Hill Road, Marshfield, VT, 05658.

Your deposit is refundable less \$40.00 up to May 1st, 2017; after that date no refund can be issued. **Balance is due June 15th, 2017.**

Name:

Address:

Home phone:

Cell phone:

Email:

Emergency contact:

Do you have any dietary restrictions?

What medium will you be working in?

Have you painted outside before?

Please briefly describe your previous painting experience: