Ruth Smith Gallery - Testimonials for Art Classes

I have been attending oil painting classes with Ruth for two years since I moved to Devon. Using oils was completely new and Ruth made the transition very easy and is very skilled in teaching all standards and abilities and makes everyone feel comfortable at the easel. Ruth's classes are always varied and great fun and Ruth uses her extensive art knowledge introducing the class to different styles and genres of art and Ruth is consistently helping us develop our skills, teaching us new techniques and challenging us to develop our art and painting styles.

Paul Wonnacott

I've been attending Ruth's weekly oil painting classes for the past year. I had no experience of painting in oils before starting the classes, but was inspired to join after meeting Ruth and seeing her paintings.
Ruth's classes are varied, instructive and motivational, and I've certainly developed as an artist by taking part.
In the winter we paint indoors, sometimes at Ruth's gallery (Ruth Smith Gallery) in North Tawton and sometimes in the local Community Hall. Ruth has planned some of her classes to teach some basic art theory and recent examples include the use of tone, colour theory and perspective. Ruth has organised a variety of subjects for us to paint, including still lives and paintings of people, and encourages us to use the theory we've learnt as we paint.
In the summer Ruth's sessions are outside in the countryside, around North Tawton or on Dartmoor. We have recently been painting a variety of scenes around Belstone.
Ruth supplies easels, brushes and materials, which means it's easy to take part in her classes without having to buy everything you would need to get started (although having been inspired, I have now splashed out!).
Ruth's feedback is specific to everyone's individual needs and is encouraging, helpful and developmental. She encourages each of us to try new ways of approaching our work and is very happy to answer questions. Ruth sometimes paints alongside us and it's really useful to see how she approaches her own painting.
While attending Ruth's classes I've been inspired by her teaching and also by seeing how other members of the group paint. It's been great to see how each of us has developed under Ruth's tuition.

Karen Drage

I have been attending Ruth's art classes for nearly two years and have always found her to be well prepared as a facilitator for the class, and very able to describe desired outcomes of each session, and provide valuable feedback on the work achieved. Ruth has a friendly and approachable manner. She responds creatively and inclusively on a 1:1 basis with individual students, and to the group as a whole, providing helpful and incisive critiques to assist with their work. Ruth displays a thorough knowledge of art history, which she frequently references during the art classes for examples of techniques that may be useful to her students. Also Ruth herself has considerable artistic talent, with techniques that she can display for the encouragement of her students and their artwork.

Carolyn Scott