



**David W. Mayer Masterworks of New Mexico – Workshop  
Schedule and General Overview**

**Thursday, April 22, 2010:**

- **Classroom** (9 a.m. at the Masterworks venue (Hispanic Arts Building)):

Introductions  
Review of basic approach to design  
Composition  
Shapes and Simplified Masses  
Use of Limited (3-4) Values  
Discussion of Carlson's 4 planes of the landscape  
Overview of "Laying In" Oil Paint  
Fat over lean (thick over thin)  
Painting shapes and patterns  
Showing reality with details at the edges of patterns  
Limited Color Palettes  
Use of Grays

- **Outdoors** (Location to be determined):  
Subject selection and composition/pattern/value sketches  
Painting the selection

**Friday April 23, 2010:**

- **Classroom** (9 a.m. at the Masterworks venue (Hispanic Arts Building)):  
Review and critique of first day work -- related to basics  
Composition  
Shapes and Simplified Masses  
Use of Limited (3-4) Values  
Selected "Paintovers" of student paintings.
- **Outdoors** (Location to be determined):  
I will do a demonstration painting during the day. You may watch or paint.  
Subject selection and composition/pattern/value sketches  
Painting the selection  
Mixing "color puddles" to match 4-6 basic colors in nature and using your grays  
Painting the selection

**Saturday April 24, 2010:**

- **Classroom** (9 a.m. at the Masterworks venue (Hispanic Arts Building)):  
Review and critique of second day work -- related to basics  
Composition  
Shapes and Simplified Masses  
Use of Limited (3-4) Values  
Selected "Paintovers" of student paintings.
- **Outdoors** (Location to be determined):  
Subject selection and composition/pattern/value sketches  
Painting the selection  
Mixing "color puddles" to match 4-6 basic colors in nature and using your grays  
Emphasis on laying in oil paint to fit patterns/shapes  
Rendering nature's objects  
Painting the selection

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If the weather is bad please be prepared to bring at least 6-8 good quality 8x10 photo prints that we will use to paint subjects indoors.**

**Course Overview:**

I have designed this "plein air" oil painting workshop for beginners and intermediate painters who wish to take their painting skills to the next stage. Students will be working both indoors and outdoors.

The workshop will focus not so much on painting specific things (trees, mountains, lakes, etc.), but rather on painting the proper shapes, values, colors and textures directly from nature. The end result is a far better painting than if students set out to paint "things"!

The emphasis of this workshop will be on the basics aspects of painting:

- **Understanding the three-value system for design and composition**
- **Creating compositional patterns and "shape maps"**
- **Developing quick value sketches of the desired patterns and shapes**
- **Learning how to "lay down" oil paint to reach the visual goals of the painting. This will focus on placing the right paint colors and thicknesses into the correct "shape areas" and then finalizing the rendering of details.**

I'm certain that you will be a much more accomplished painter at the end of these 3 days! The workshop is limited to number of students so that you will have plenty of personal attention.

I will do several demonstration paintings outdoors as well as present some of my work and discuss the composition and painting techniques employed. Students will then paint at their own easels. There will be individual critiques to help each artist solve problems and several group critiques throughout the workshop. One session may be done in the early morning or later afternoon to take advantage of the different light conditions depending upon the weather.

Plus, while some artists always tell you that there are no secrets except "hard work" (which is certainly required), I will share some of the real professional "secrets" to getting your paintings to a much more advanced state in a far shorter time.