

Getting Started with Line

Line in Abstract Painting

How do you find your personal vocabulary in line making?

This session is geared towards helping you explore some of the ways that we can use line in abstract art. Some questions for this exploration:

Do your lines describe shape? Are they outlines?

Are they clear and strong or more fluid and soft?

Is there a point at which they become shape?

What movement of hand and/or arm feels natural to you?

What are your most used tools and materials?

Preparing substrates for painting

Using matt medium or water and acrylic paint prepare your surfaces using a light coat of paint. Use some medium quality mixed media or watercolour paper that will withstand a couple of coats of paint. We will use a scumbling technique with one or two colours and lots of white to create an interesting surface to work on. Have three or four pieces of paper ready to use, each about 8x8 inches in size.

Begin by mixing up a light colour that is the consistency of single cream. Use either matt medium or water to thin the paint to the right consistency.

Apply the paint working quickly to the surface. Begin with one colour and as you gradually cover the surface mix in other light colours by dipping your brush into different hues to get an interesting effect.

Art Fluency

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How Many Lines?

Using as many different ways as you can draw lines on a pieces of cheap drawing paper. You can use paint, pen, charcoal, scratch into paint, objects for drawing. See how many different ways of drawing a line you can come up with. Use your dominant and non dominant hand. Draw straight lines, curvy lines, scribble. Allow yourself free reign with this exercise. You might like to use very large paper so that you can make larger more expansive gestures.

Practice Studies

Study 1: Using as only line and as many different kinds as you can create a small study/painting using one of your painted papers. Try to make each line different from the one before it.

Study 2: Using another painted substrate from earlier, using lines and some shapes if you wish, create another small study.