

What it is like to study art with Lynne Oakes

I have always done well in a classroom environment, but my first preference continues to be the private lessons. This is true regardless of subject, but particularly where my art is concerned. It is true that private lessons are generally a bit more expensive than classroom lessons, at least at first glance; but when viewed in terms of return on investment, I think that the value for money in Lynne's private lessons far exceeds the value I would have gotten from a group class. Here is some food for thought on that score:

Personal attention: During my lesson, Lynne works with me and me alone. Not only do I have the benefit of Lynne's years of experience as an artist and a teacher; I don't have to share it with anyone!

Pacing of lessons: From the first day, I have been in control of the pace at which we move through the lesson material. There are no classmates to accommodate, and there is nobody holding me back. If I am moving quickly through a section, that's great; if I have trouble or need to spend more time in a particular area, that is fine too.

Personalized lesson content and planning: In our initial interview, I outlined for Lynne my history with art, and my hopes for the next stage of my artistic journey. Lynne took that information and tailored each lesson to me specifically. (Of course, there are some basic lessons in technique that each student will need to complete, but even there, there is room for exploration of each student's individual tastes and interests.)

Flexibility of scheduling: Because I am the only student in my "class", if I have a work obligation or other commitment that conflicts with a regular lesson, Lynne and I simply reschedule my lesson. I don't have to worry about missing class or falling behind; we always work around all of my commitments at home and at work with minimal difficulty.

Reference materials: Lynne is constantly updating and re-working her lesson plans to suit each student. With each lesson or course comes a treasure trove of valuable reference material, to which the student can refer over and over. With most other classroom lessons, I believe the textbooks or other references need to be purchased, after tuition has been paid. Lynne's reference materials are included in the price of classes.

This last point is not easily summarized in a couple of words, but let me simply state that Lynne has a true gift for teaching. She is a gifted and accomplished artist in her own right, of course. However, what makes Lynne so unique is that she has the ability to "sense" what her students need and what teaching methods will work best for each one. She teaches students of all types, and does so very successfully. All she asks is that her students bring with them a desire to learn and grow as artists. If the student supplies that desire, Lynne will tailor her own approach to bring out the best in that particular individual, and ensure that that person travels as far along his or her personal artistic road as possible.