

COURSE TITLE	WATERCOLOUR: EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD
COURSE CODE	WC2503PWA1
TUTOR	LAURA RIBBONS
START DATE	23/05/2026
DAY & TIME	SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 10AM - 4.30PM
LEVEL	ALL LEVELS
LOCATION	BANKSIDE CAMPUS

DAILY BREAKDOWN

Date	Topics/ Skills covered
23 May 2026	The morning will begin with colour mixing. We will look at basic colour theory and explore how we can achieve tonal variation in watercolour. We will begin by focusing on how we can most effectively replicate colours seen in nature, we will then work on layering colours together - creating semi-transparent 'glazes' of colour, taking inspiration from the watercolours of Callum Innes to create simple abstract compositions. We will then look at wet-on-wet and how to create a simple skyscapes. In the afternoon we will work from a composition of plants in the studio. We will consider how the process of careful observation can change our relationship to plants and enhance our understanding of other species. On a technical level we will be building on skills developed during the morning session and will work on expanding on an understanding of how to create a simple composition, build up layers of colour and think about how best to use our brush strokes to produce a vibrant finished painting.
24 May 2026	We will spend the morning working off-site at the beautiful local Red Cross Garden, where students will have the opportunity to experience working 'en plein air'. We will gain confidence working rapidly out of doors and will build on our understanding of colour theory and mixing from Saturday's session. Students will also be encouraged to consider texture and how this may be recreated in their work. In the afternoon we will return to the studio and will explore texture further using plant matter (herbs, leaves etc) in combination with other alternative painting tools. We will take inspiration from our morning sketches to create our own landscape composition, incorporating the textural language we have begun to explore. Students will also have the opportunity to include elements of collage. This portion of the day offers an opportunity for students to visually explore contrasts between green spaces and human-built environments, and to consider the need and importance of green spaces in cities like London. Students will be shown examples of contemporary artists for inspiration.