

Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society - Workshop Description

Rafael DeSoto Jr.

Painting California Coastlines

This 3-day workshop will focus on learning how to paint beautiful California coastlines in watercolor using photo references from Sonoma, Santa Cruz and Monterey.

Lessons will be based on painting in a representational, impressionistic manner with consideration in developing your personal style. Learn methods for painting waves, rocks, ocean currents, wet sand, cliffs and dunes. Emphasis will be on creating compelling compositions, using tonal values and effective application of color. Procedures for washes, blending, underpainting, layering, dry brush, masking, lifting and scraping will be explored. Tips on interpreting photo reference, using thumbnail sketches, and plein-air painting set ups are included. Students will also be coached on learning how to view subjects simply in order to paint boldly and confidently.

Lectures will be followed by demonstrations along with easy-to-follow step-by-step instruction. Constructive critiques will be offered. Students can expect to complete at least one painting each day.

Skill Level: Experienced Beginner and Up