Workshop Notes

Set up Your Space
- Give yourself enough room to mix up paint
- Use your palette as your working space
- Value of practicing on another surface before making marks

Properties of Paintbrush
- Shovel - large quantities of paint applied heavily, for scrubbing in and pushing around
- Rake - to even out the colour, spread around evenly, take out the high spots etc
- Broom - to smooth it out so there's no brushmarks

Exercise - (and homework for the rest of your life!)
- See how many marks one brush can make

Introduced the concept of **Default Settings**, and used my tropical water default setting of:
Cadmium Yellow Light
Pthalo Blue
White

Colour Gradation Exercise
Using the shovel, rake, broom technique & the above colours.

Refraction Process
Applied over the gradation of colour.

Discussed that we suggested the substrate/sand, and the colour/depth of the water, and then suggested the surface of the water by representing the refraction of light on the bottom/sand. We used our palette and used the colours that we'd previously mixed up for the gradation.

NOTE: That's why it's important to leave each incremental colour change mix on your palette.

We went into the process I use to create the appearance of water, breaking it down into four elements:
- The substrate
- The colour of the water
- The surface of the water
- The light

Then we represented the surface of the water by reflecting the light (or in this case the sky behind it). We did this by using another **Default Setting** representing the warm summer sky on the surface of the water, which is:
Ultramarine Blue
White

Wave Breaking Exercise

We painted a wave breaking diagonally across our painting. We looked at the ways which a wave affected the appearance of the substrate, and the surface of the water. We sculpted the wave using smaller waves, and drawing out the lines to represent ripples.

In this example, the light that was reflecting on the surface of the water, was represented by the sky, but also the reflection of the whitewash on the surface in front of it. The fourth element of water, the light, is pretty much whatever happens to be behind the water, relative to your eye. For example whitewash, a boat sail, the sky, etc.

<p style="text-align:center;color:orange;">TIP: THINK - WINDOWS AND MIRRORS</p>

We also painted the "soupy" water to suggest the passing of an earlier wave. We used our chisel on its edge, and created a series of flat ellipses to paint the soup.

Wet Rocks/Gravel Demonstration

This demo was done to represent the principles of water, but changing one of the elements (in this case the substrate). I first did a gradation over the canvas. Then I used the edge of my brush to flick flecks onto the lower part of the canvas, to represent shells and grit/small rocks etc as the substrate. I then used the exact same process of applying the surface of the water, and the refraction process, to create the illusion of water.

We discussed whether wet sand could be approached the same way using the principles of water. We discussed whether we could also use this process to paint wet rocks. I demonstrated how to paint wet rocks by using the reflections on both the rocks and the shell/grit foreground. We came to the conclusion that no matter the subject, when it was wet, the process of painting water applied (in varying increments). Substrate, colour of the water, surface of the water, light.

<p style="text-align:center;color:orange;font-size:2em;">Thanks to everyone for a fantastic day!</p>

For support material about what you learnt today, check out these pages:

www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/ocean-landscapes.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/perspective-in-painting.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-water.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/painting-waves.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/gradation.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/brush-technique.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/acrylic-glazing.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-clouds.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/support-files/aa013defaultsettingtropicalwater.pdf
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/support-files/AA007SSDefaultSettings.pdf
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/support-files/default-settings-trees.pdf
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/Acrylics_Anonymous-acrylics-anonymous-019.html

And please subscribe to Acrylics Anonymous if you haven't already done so!!! It's our free monthly ezine, full of great painting info and subscriber only deals, and we don't ever send you junk. Bonus!

and these video clips!
(subscribe to our Youtube channel Explore Acrylics for all the latest clips):

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Shadows in Waves:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfIAtF-0UoM

Painting Waves - Perspective in Whitewash:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvlwo_e9JI

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Reflections in Whitewash:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUDJHY9h9fA

Painting Waves - Dry Brush Technique
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgNhoede9AI

Brush Technique
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icWYYJHJFVc

How to Paint Water - Refraction:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzCGPAUXJOg

How to Paint Wet Rocks:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4qv1uzfW7E

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Glazing:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spJETxwJsdk

How To Paint Shadows:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lDut2Tma1QU