

TERM 2

Acrylic Painting: Colour, Tone & Technique — 10 Week Outline

Week 1 – Tone & Limited Palette

Introduction to tonal structure using a limited palette of ultramarine blue, burnt sienna and titanium white. Students will create tonal studies exploring light vs dark, and warm vs cool shifts within a restrained colour range.

Week 2 – Understanding Colour Bias

Exploring how colour bias affects mixing. Students will mix a range of secondary colours to see how different combinations influence brightness and neutrality (for example lemon yellow with cerulean blue versus ochre with ultramarine).

Week 3 – Colour Interaction & Mixing

Practical colour mixing exercises examining how pigments influence one another. Students will explore how to control intensity, dullness, and harmony within a palette.

Week 4 – Mixing vs Glazing

Creating colour swatches through both direct mixing and glazing. Students will compare how colours behave when physically mixed versus layered transparently.

Week 5 – Tints, Saturation & Chroma

Exploring how to create tints with white while maintaining colour strength. Exercises will focus on how saturation can be preserved or intentionally softened.

Major Project: Week 6 - 10 Indirect Painting & Glazing

In the second half of the term, students will develop a larger painting using the indirect method. Beginning with a tonal underpainting, colour will be gradually built through layers of transparent glazes to create depth, richness and subtle shifts in temperature.

Along the way, students will refine their brushwork and explore techniques such as blending, stippling, and the use of crisp and lost edges to help resolve the final painting.