



History

The school was started in 2010 by Chris Andrew, using the same principles for its operation as his previous highly successful school at the Gold Coast. In late 2012 it was taken over by Chris Martin, a former tutor at the school and a friend.

The aim of the school hasn't really changed much since the beginning and is very simple....*"to teach people to paint and draw in the way that I would love to have been taught myself"* (Chris Andrew). This means a 'hands on' method of teaching, with the emphasis on simplicity, demonstration, and understanding – all of which lead to building confidence. Realist painting and drawing is arguably the foundation upon which all other art styles are based, and therefore we believe that it can and should be taught as a technical subject at first, with a more expressive and perhaps meaningful output being a natural progression from a sound understanding of the tools, techniques and principles that I teach. Like most disciplines (such as music, sewing, welding, cooking) there are rules to follow (and break occasionally), without which we often flounder. By learning these foundational principles first, students can gain the skills and confidence to develop their own personal style and approach.

Smaller..

At the end of 2015 I decided that I wanted to make a change to the school to allow me to spend more time painting, and less time organising classes and what have you. So I closed two of the three units, stopped all but one of my kids classes (now taken over by Tammy's Art Studio in Springwood) and went for that outcome. Since then, I've also rolled some classes together, so as I write this (Oct 17) there are now only 3 intermediate classes, and I'm the only teacher. My studio is the school. Beginners classes run three times a year for the moment, and the 12 week courses run approximately Feb to April, April to July and Aug to Oct. The actual dates vary slightly from year to year.

The pathway

I believe that anybody can be taught to paint and draw, that drawing and painting are technical skills, the same as playing piano or driving a car, and that if you have the desire and tenacity to persist, you will succeed. The 'artistic talent' comes into play later, once you have the tools and the confidence, as well as the understanding that making a mistake (or lots of them) is not just inevitable, but essential. Once you truly understand that, you can relax and enjoy the process. The 'Beginners Fundamentals' course discusses the fact that learning to draw and paint is in large part a cerebral process. Why? Because what we see is actually a mental construction. It follows that changing the way you see... is a mental process too.

For this reason, we first teach the principles of good drawing 'Drawing' doesn't necessarily mean just using a pencil. By drawing we mean the application of form and tone onto whatever your substrate happens to be (paper/canvas/chalkboard or whatever) with whatever you happen to be using, (pencil, charcoal, paint, chalk etc).

My initial aim is to teach you to use pencil and oil paints in a realistic manner. In the 'foundation classes', we begin with oils as the colour medium, because oils are very forgiving in their nature, and don't dry too quickly. (This seems counter-intuitive to many beginners, but trust me...it can be a good thing!) It's also far easier to learn the science of colour mixing with a more opaque substance.

Every class begins with a demonstration because instruction based on seeing someone DO what they're talking about is so much more effective to people who are learning a skill. I believe in first giving you the capability and confidence to do so, in order that your focus is on the creative outcome, rather than wrestling with tools that you're finding difficult to control, and thus I hope to keep you enjoying the art making process. Understanding the principles of realism is just the first step on the wonderful journey that can lead you to destinations beyond your imagination.

The Beginners Foundation Course

This twelve week program teaches you the basic principles of painting and drawing in a realistic manner. By understanding the 'principles' rather than just 'techniques,' you will soon discover that there shouldn't be a significant difference in approach between drawing a landscape or a portrait.

You will discover that no matter what medium you are using, the principles remain the same, as in many ways the course is a series of exercises designed to help you "see" things in a certain way. You will be taught how to see shapes and tones and reproduce them in an accurate representation.

Using oil and pencil/charcoal you will cover such subjects as

- **Massing** – how to 'see' shapes and transfer them to the paper in an accurate manner. You will be taught how to use;
 - **Negative spaces**
 - **Lines of reference**
 - **Units of measure from shape**
- **Tone** – understanding the use of tone to describe form.
 - **Tonal edges**
 - **Simultaneous contrast**
 - **Finding mid-tones**
- **Gesture drawing** –
 - **Gesture as a preliminary drawing**
 - **Gesture as art**
- **Colour theory**
 - This is an important subject that we cover in depth. By understanding the theory of colour you will be able to mix any colour as you see it in front of you. I employ a simple method of teaching this subject that will have amazing results on all your future painting, yet is easy to understand.

- **Right brain thinking.....**

- How we can turn on the 'right brain' (our creative, intuitive and artistic side). We all have creative ability! It hangs out in the deep and mysterious right side of our brains, but is largely dominated by society's reliance on precision and fact. We need to exercise this sideto get the full potential out of it.

The Intermediate level classes

After the Beginners course, many students choose to stay with the school and continue to grow in the Intermediate groups. These are run as short classes rather than courses, ranging from a week (for a drawing say) to several weeks (for a larger and complex painting). It's a very social atmosphere and some groups have seen the same students attending for many years now, becoming good friends in the process.

I don't currently run an 'Advanced' group, but perhaps that's a thing for the future.

Beginners Foundation classes

Morning classes	10am to 12.30pm	Please note that once you've decided whether you want a morning or an evening class, that's your class for the twelve sessions. If you need to swap on occasional weeks due to, say kids hols or something, then that's usually possible...subject to space.
Monday		
Evening classes	6.30pm to 9pm	
Monday		

The cost

You'll do ONE class per week. Each two and a half hour class costs \$35.00, so the twelve week course is \$420.00 (incl GST). It's worth noting that this price has been the same since the school started. (You're welcome) 😊

I try to keep it affordable to students who are a bit strapped for cash, by dividing this cost into three payments as follows:

An initial payment of \$160 as a deposit upon booking, followed by a further two payments of \$130 per week for the first two weeks of the course in order to complete the payment of fees. If you would prefer, you can of course just pay the whole thing. See below for more...

For the sake of individual attention, class numbers are normally limited to TEN only.

How to enrol

The easiest way is to book online using the secure form and payment process. If a particular class is full it will be made unavailable online, but you can check by calling me. If you book provisionally on the phone, your name will be placed on a 'pending' list, which will hold you place for seven days only. **To actually confirm your booking, the initial deposit of \$160.00 must be received within 7 days of the booking.**

SUMMARY OF PAYMENT METHODS: – *Please note that payment is via the website by credit card, PayPal, online bank transfer (call for details), or good ol' cash. I don't have EFTPOS facilities.*

Materials

Other than easels, students must supply their own drawing and painting materials. If you already have the following items, then you will not be required to purchase any extras. However, it's a good plan to you use

'Art Spectrum' oil colours, as that's the one in the kits, and the one I use. All brands differ in colour, and amounts of 'fillers' used. So if we can all use the same product for colour mixing lessons and throughout the course, the lessons will make more sense. To make it both easier and cheaper for you, I also sell a complete kit of all the materials you will need for the Beginners Foundation Course, at a very reasonable price that's about 10% less than normal retail prices. This complete material kit can be pre-ordered and purchased at the first class for \$195.00

It's probably possible to get your stuff for a bit less if you're lucky enough to walk into Riot Art during a sale. I don't mind if you do that... I'm not trying to make money on these, just provide a resource.

Kit contents for Beginners Foundation Course – (everything you'll need)

One each...2B, and 8B Faber Castel pencils
One A3 sketch pad
One putty rubber
One pencil sharpener (actually a scalpel these days!)

Art Spectrum 401 Series Oil Colours

One tube each:

Titanium White
Spectrum Crimson
Spectrum Vermillion
Spectrum Yellow
Lemon Yellow
Ultramarine Blue
Phthalo Blue
Burnt Sienna (or maybe Raw
Umber...which I'm moving more towards
these days)
Ivory Black

Art Spectrum Series 900 Interlocked bristle
brushes – typically we supply:

One No10 Filbert
One No8 Round
One No6 Flat
One No6 Filbert
One No4 Filbert
One No4 Round
Two No2 Filbert

(It doesn't have to be these, but I think these
particular brushes are pretty good!)

One stand up brush wallet
One easy clean painting palette
One palette knife

Two A3 primed boards
One A4 primed board

(These are made by me, but you can buy canvas ones in the shops if you prefer... about these sizes. If you do that, make sure that they are properly primed. Usually they aren't, even the expensive 'Jasart' ones from Eckersleys I discovered!).

Intermediate classes

For those who are more accomplished, we also offer intermediate level classes that are aimed at further embedding the ideas that are central to the tonal realist approach. However, you don't need to have done the beginners class first if you feel that you would prefer the more casual class approach, although in most cases, the students have done so. These are classes that are project based and more casual in as far as they are not a 'course' as such, but a group that meets to paint together that is tutored by demonstration AND individual discussion about the work that you do as the tutor walks around the class. This has proved to be a highly effective and enjoyable approach for many students. These classes are run Tuesday, Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm and Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 9pm. The cost is \$35 per lesson.

There is a once only deposit of \$70 which can be redeemed against the last two classes you do if you give two weeks notice.

If you need any further information, please visit the website or call Chris Martin on the number below.

Always happy to answer questions about the school, so if you have any, do call.

Thanks,

Chris