

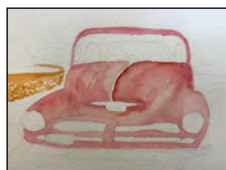


Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

Exploring Granulation and Rust

The vets and CWA volunteers began not in our regular classroom, but in the lounge area. There, Nancy Reddan received a necklace of great affection, designed by Michael Friedland. Each member of the group contributed a signed Valentine's heart along with their wishes for her continued health improvement.

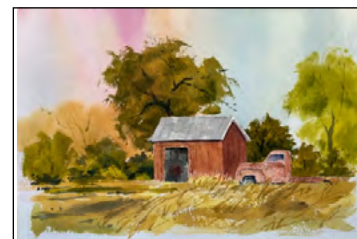
Eventually, we were in the classroom. Each participant received several source photos of a rusty truck, a piece of rough watercolor paper, pencils, erasers, and pigment that was prone to granulation. Watercolor pigments granulate because their particles are denser and larger than those of other pigments. As a result, the particles sit on the surface of the paper, clump, and collect in the pockets of the rough paper giving a less intense color and textured appearance. Some granulating pigments are earth tones, Siennas, and Umbers, as well as Cobalt blue and Aquamarine Blue. Since the pigment particles rest on the surface, it's best to use a flat board without any angle to allow them to settle properly. These pigments are opaque. Once dry they lift easily. When used with a lot of water, they can create a blurry effect in the distance.



Truck Source Art



Nancy Modeling Her Heart Necklace



Cerulean Blue Test



Fine particle pigments are more transparent and vibrant, allowing them to sink into the paper more effectively. The mixing of a granular pigment with a fine particle pigment creates a color that shifts. You can create these colors yourself or use Schmincke pigments, as well as Daniel Smith's Lunar Blue and Shadow Violet, among others.

While Sheila was discussing the properties of granulation, the group was drawing their truck. After the initial drawing was complete, she suggested starting with a pink underpainting. Once the underpainting had dried—either naturally or with the help of a hair dryer—we moved on to the next step: creating a granulating test strip using burnt sienna. This would help achieve a rust-like appearance for the truck. Since this process requires time, we decided to work on the painting over two sessions.

We lined up our work along the wall. We saw that there was a wide range of progress. One person painted quite small and finished his work. Another painter painted his own truck which just happened to be the same model as our source photo. His was the most detailed and finished but still needed a background. Everyone finished their drawing and began painting. People liked the project. We look forward to meeting again and continuing our work on granulated rusty trucks.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach