

## July 2023 Demo: Mixed media by Alison Board

Alison is a great self starter, and creates new projects and challenges each month. She began her demo with a little background to her upbringing in the family-run art materials shop. Recently she set up a new studio and in October will be teaching art to 16-18 year olds in Bournemouth.

Her subject for her pen and ink demo was a photo of two Lemurs (sourced on line royalty free). In terms of the perfect kit, lay your hands on anything that will make a right mark. Her preferred paper was Agave watercolour by Hahnemuhle UK, sustainably sourced, 70% Agave and 30% cotton, makes it very soft. using a 2B pencil followed by a dark grey Unipin waterproof pen. Her 'Morse code' technique of dots and dashes, gives a variety of mark making, lots of broken lines. 'Impressionistic' getting away from the 'ordered' where chaos feels alien. What you leave out is equally important to what you include. Set yourself a time limit to focus your efforts.

Alison used a Stabilo.68, 96 water soluble felt pen as an underpainting and number 46 black which splits into different colours when painted, colour with pen to avoid White fright. She introduced us to 'Brusho' a very fine, watersoluable, highly concentrated colour pigmented powder, applied sparingly with a bamboo stirrer. Once sprayed with water it diffuses the pigments. Granulation is when the pigment dapples in the troughs of the paper.

She has her own range of colours developed in association with SAA, using sustainable, vegan pigments. Bee's gold, Quinacridone magenta, Ultramarine violet, Cobalt blue, Cobalt turquoise and Black Iron oxide. She suggested using a limited palette, reduces the tendency to go dull and muddy. Opaque colours tend to dull down while transparent colours sing.

Alison paints directly from neat colour blocks, mixing on the paper, watercolour will work for me and do its thing, important when patience and time are in short supply! Put colour all round the painting, then you will push through and have the incentive to finish. Painting is problem solving, using tonal values, its the process not the finished article.

Brushes are also 'green' using Synthetic squirrel, nylon imitation sable. Nylon bristles hold more colour and avoid animal cruelty. Move colour around, via pens and water on a brush. Her running commentary while painting was entertaining, full of humour. She left the eyes to the end to maintain interest. We were introduced to Posca Pens, a graffiti marker which will stick to anything, water soluble when wet and water resistant, waterproof when dry.

She can be found at: [www.learningtopaint.co.uk](http://www.learningtopaint.co.uk).

