

Blog Rules

for Online Workshops with Jane Davies

Posting

1. Put your name in the post title.

2. Put your name in the labels. The “labels” are a sorting mechanism. Anything you put in the labels appears in the right margin, and allows us to sort by that label. So, if your name is a label, we can click on it in the margin and see all of your posts. If you put more than just your name in the labels (e.g. the lesson or the exercise), separate labels by commas: Jane, Lesson 1.

3. Please indicate the dimensions of your work.

4. When posting your work, begin with positive statements. Tell us about your process, how your thoughts developed as you did the work. If there are specific things you felt you got stuck on, or couldn't get to “work”, identify them and ask for suggestions. **Two things I would like you to avoid:**

- posting images of your work and then trashing it: e.g. “I don't like *this*, and *that* didn't come out the way I wanted it to”, and “I'm no good at X, Y, or Z”. Try statements like “I had some trouble with X in this piece”, “I had one idea when I started, but the piece went in another direction”, “Something isn't working here, or I can't seem to resolve this piece - any suggestions?” or “I like this about the piece, and that seems OK, but I'm stuck on this other area”.
- Posting images with no commentary at all. I can't give effective feedback if I don't know where you are mentally with your work.

5. If you have the time and energy to scan/photograph works in progress, and post “before” and “after” images, that is very helpful. I know this takes extra effort, so do it if you can; students really appreciate this, and I get a better handle on your process this way.

Commenting

To comment on someone's post, click on “comments” at the bottom of the post. It will indicate the number of comments, “7 comments” or “no comments”, for example. A comment box should appear. Write your comment and then click on “publish”. Under each comment there is an option to “reply”. To reply to a specific comment, click on “reply”. If you want to follow all the comments, click on “subscribe by e-mail” under the comments.

When commenting on others' work try to say more than “I like it”, or “This one is my favorite”. While positive feedback is encouraging, please make more specific

Blog Rules

for Online Workshops with Jane Davies

observations: “This line divides up the piece nicely”, or “This shape contrasts with that shape”. Try to make *observational* statements, not evaluative ones. It’s fine to say “I like this”, but say what specifically you like about it. Or if there is something *not* working in a piece, try to identify what it is: “this area and that area are competing for my attention”, for example. Be gentle, but honest, in your comments; this will help you to be gentle and honest with yourself about your own work.

Remember, all the work we do in this course is experimental. We are trying new things, going out on a limb, pushing ourselves, and learning. Do not feel that a piece has to be “finished” or resolved before posting it. The goal is to learn, not to make brilliant masterpieces.