



The Secret Structure of Great Paintings

Mastering Shape, Light, and Value

3–Day Workshop with Karen Vernon, this April 26, 27, 27, 2026

Join us for an inspiring three-day workshop focused on two of the most powerful tools in painting— **shape and light**. Through demonstrations, discussion, and guided painting time, students will learn how to simplify complex scenes into strong shapes of light and dark to create paintings with clarity, depth, and impact.

We will explore how strong value design establishes the structure of a painting and allows color/light to shine without confusion. By learning to see and organize value patterns first, artists gain greater control over composition, mood, and visual storytelling.

What We Will Explore.

- We will explore value and color and **how to create radiance**.
- Understanding **value as the foundation of strong paintings**
- Simplifying scenes into **large, readable shapes**
- Designing compelling **light and shadow patterns**
- Creating depth and atmosphere in **landscapes**
- Capturing the rhythm and elegance of **floral forms**
- Using edges, lost-and-found shapes, and selective detail to strengthen the design
- Translating **value studies into luminous paintings**

Workshop Format

Each day will include:

- Instructor demonstrations
- Short design and value exercises
- Guided painting sessions

- Individual feedback and group discussion

Students will complete several studies and at least one developed painting while strengthening their ability to **see light, organize shapes, and paint with intention.**

Who Should Attend

This workshop is ideal for **beginner through advanced watercolor painters** who want to strengthen their compositions and develop greater confidence in designing paintings built on strong value structure.