

What This Course Isn't...

Rosalyn Schwartz , Olli, Spring 2020

- This is not an art history class, taught by an art historian, rather, it is a course taught by a painter who works everyday in her studio and actively exhibits her work. This course is taught through the eyes of a painter, through the experience of a painter painting. I will be discussing the “formal” issues that painters think about, i.e.: shape, color, size, rhythm, gesture, line quality, tone, and composition, qualities that are not often discussed by historians, critics, even other painters. Historical meaning or literary understanding of subject matter will be less the talking point, than HOW a particular subject matter or idea reveals itself. We are “talking painting,” as opposed to “talking literature.” Painting is primarily a “visual language.” To quote film critic Roger Ebert interviewed by film director Martin Scorsese **“Subject matter is neutral. Film (Art) is not about the subject, it’s about HOW it’s about the subject.”**

- We will be looking at digital images of a flat screen which will never be like standing in front of the real painting. You can never be 100% sure that the accuracy of colors seen in a reproduction. In addition, the images will all look roughly the same size on the screen, when in reality, one painting may be 12” x 9” and the next one may be 12’ x 9’! Such size variations are a major part of a painting’s meaning, how its meaning is interpreted and how its meaning is received by the viewer.

- I will be showing you an extensive selection of paintings throughout the course. A few things I can say for sure: some paintings you may love immediately, some you may have a lukewarm response to, some you will detest and may even wonder why it is called “art.”