

## **Nic Kirkman**

### **Format of classes**

The format of her class is similar to social painting except there's a tutor available. You can bring whatever you wish to work on... in whatever medium you like. Nic is available to give *both* technical advice *and* help you to explore your own artistic voice. There is no pressure to be working in a particular style or on particular subjects... People work on their *own* projects. This means that there's an exciting range of subjects and styles happening within the group, and peers get to inspire one another. Periodically, Nic also does demonstrations exploring particular skills and ideas. These are based on students' requirements and requests. There is an emphasis on having fun in order to achieve flow but also to help focus on the work of art when it is a bit more uncomfortable. People have noticed how her students leave her class laughing and energised.

### **Philosophy of classes**

Nic's approach is not merely about making pretty pictures. She combines art, philosophy, psychology and utter silliness to help her students with their own artistic journeys and overcome blocks to their creativity. All too often we can get quite hung up we can all get about things being "right". But, Art is actually an essential tool for us humans: it helps us explore and communicate what we know, think, believe and understand about our world and our subjective realities, and it helps us remember emotions. It helps us in ways that words alone cannot. And – as a tool – it can provide us with a safe emotional haven and outlet. Nic aims to help you to develop your skills and approach to your own artistic voice so that it can be the tool *you* need and produce the art that is uniquely yours to produce.

Even if you just want to improve technically and do it more easily these classes can have something for you. Nic believes there is no such thing as "too hard" – there is only ever "research and development". If you've got a subject you've been waiting until "you're good enough" to do Nic will guide you through learning how to tackle it... why learn to do art on subjects you don't love?!?

### **Background**

Nic Kirkman came to Australia from the UK in 2012. While she's been an Artist from a very early age, she actually became a full time professional one as recently as Jan 2014. She's primarily a portraitist. However, she also applies her observational skills to plein air painting and still lifes. Most of her work is fairly realistic and impressionistic; however, she also has her "Anomie" paintings which are more abstracted figurative pieces exploring emotions. She works in a wide range of mediums (oil, acrylics, pastel, watercolours, mixed-media, pencil, pens, charcoal, and Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator). Before becoming a professional Artist, Nic has been a Physicist, University Tutor supporting Dyslexic students, Assistive Technology Trainer, and even underwent some Architectural training (during which she was a Mature-Student Mentor). Her varied background means she has a broad body of knowledge to call upon and years of experience supporting students to achieve their goals in all areas of life.

A primarily self-taught artist until Jan 2014, she would like to express gratitude to her own teachers who've helped her enormously since then. Her thanks go to: Catherine Hamilton, Julie Goldspink and Marilyn Richards. Thank you! Nic is continuing her own art development with the help of fellow teachers and artists, research, and her (very nearly) daily practice of art.

To find out more about Nic and her works please feel free to check out her website:

[www.nickirkman.com](http://www.nickirkman.com).



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