



THE NEW ENGLAND WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

*Promoting Excellence in Aqua Media since 1885*

## "PAINTING THE LIGHT"

### **WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP with Jean-Francois Arnaud**

**Preceding the Annual New England Watercolor Signature Members show**

**January 31st-Feb 2nd, 2025 - 9am to 4pm**

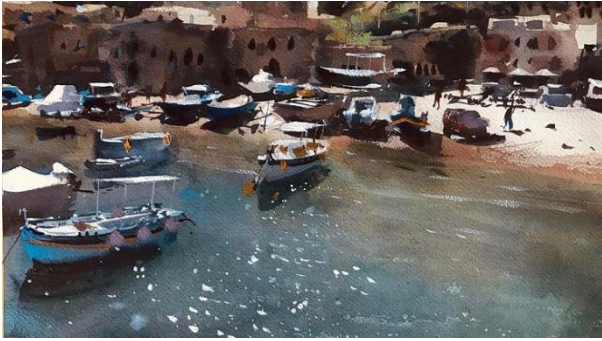
**HOSTED BY: New England Watercolor Society Gallery  
at the Guild of Boston Artists, 162 Newbury St, Boston MA 02116**



My name is Jean-François Arnaud. I was born in Toulouse, in the south of France. For as long as I can remember, I have always loved drawing. I earned a national diploma in fine arts from the Beaux-Arts in Angoulême. For 15 years, I worked in various enriching and diverse professions, including Ski Designer for the Salomon Brand, Print Shop Director, Organizer of the European Championships of Arabian Thoroughbreds, and later, Photographer and Publisher.

Eight years ago, I decided that I had accumulated enough experience, and it was time to reflect on what I truly wanted to be, and it had to be something I was passionate about. I wanted to reconnect with the person I was at 18, filled with enthusiasm and hope. Drawing fulfilled me back then, so naturally, without overthinking, I began creating large hyper-realistic pieces with ballpoint pens. This successful reconnection with the art world led me to discover watercolor and the works of great masters like Chien Chung Wei and Joseph Zbukvic. I gave it a try, and it was love at first sight.

Today, I practice watercolor with a deep passion that borders on obsession. I am in constant pursuit of progress, always refining my technique and striving for a deeper understanding of this demanding medium. My goal is to master watercolor so thoroughly that one day I can paint with it as fluently as a native language, allowing me to express myself effortlessly. This quest is more than just artistic; it is a way to communicate with nature itself. There is immense joy in taking my easel outdoors to paint a landscape en plein air, to spend an hour observing with wide-open eyes, awaiting beauty, and capturing the light. The result is not just an artwork but a memory, preserved in a few pigments on a sheet of cotton.



### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

"My approach, inspired by Impressionism, focuses on the essential: painting the light, not the details. It is about capturing the atmosphere, the play of light, and the large shapes that evoke a scene, rather than getting caught up in every small detail. When painting a forest, for example, one does not remember the exact number of trees, but rather the ambiance created by light filtering through the branches. Similarly, in a street scene, it is not the number of people or cars that matters, but the perspective, the cast shadows, and the overall impression. Learning to suggest details rather than meticulously reproduce them makes the painting process more liberating and enjoyable, turning it into a true moment of creative pleasure."

Trained in the classical academic tradition, Jean-Francois uses these foundations as the basis for his watercolor practice. Drawing plays a central role in his approach: He believes a watercolor should be built upon a precise and well-structured sketch. His workshop will demonstrate academic drawing, with a special focus on landscapes.

Next comes the exploration of color. Through careful observation and dedicated practice, Jean-Francois has mastered the use of watercolor in figurative painting, understanding the importance of following a structured process. During the workshop, he will share, in a simple and accessible way, everything he has learned about this art, enabling you to paint outdoors in harmony with your watercolor, rather than struggling against it.

**TUITION FOR THIS 3-DAY WORKSHOP IS: \$450 for NEWS members, \$525 for non-members**  
**Deposit of \$225 required at sign-up. Full payment is due by DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Sign up at

<https://newenglandwatercolorociety.org/learn-workshops.html>

**This workshop is limited to SIXTEEN participants.**

If you can't sign up online, please mail your check to:

New England Watercolor Society--Workshop

11 North Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

Please include your name, address, phone, and email

See our website for cancellation policy