



**March 16-17**

**Alexis Lavine, NWS**

***From Ordinary...to Extraordinary***

**Watercolor (Painters in all media welcome)**

### **Workshop Description**

In this workshop Alexis will focus on painting the humble, ordinary subject. So often we feel like we have to find the picture-perfect subject before we can begin to paint. But sometimes a fabulous subject is right at our feet, or in a corner of our home, overlooked and forgotten. Let's explore some modest subjects and see how we can turn them into extraordinary paintings – with the right combination of solid drawing, creative design, good painting technique, imagination, humor, and fun! Painters in all media are welcome. Daily demos and critiques and ample student painting time.

### **Artist Bio/Statement**

Making art is an essential and defining part of who I am and how I live. I see so much that intrigues me, and I am endlessly challenged to express what I see and how I feel in my own way, via watercolor.

My watercolor paintings appear to be realistic ... but they are thoughtfully conceived, strategically designed, and carefully drawn around abstract shapes, values, colors, movement, and positive and negative spaces. I believe that my approach gives my work a more contemporary feel, and results in paintings which convey my personal reaction to my subject, not merely the visual facts.

I have been a passionate “plein air” painter for many years, and take tremendous pleasure from painting outdoors, on location, wherever I am inspired by the landscape. Recently, I have been spending more in my studio, where I can slow down my brush and take more time to design and craft my paintings with the utmost of care, to create the most impact in my work and communicate with my viewers as effectively as possible. I have discovered a new fascination with the clothed human figure, and have been focusing on telling

stories, through the use of grouping, cropping, and placement of the figures within my picture plane.

Education is tremendously important. I earned two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree, before embarking on my path as a painter. I continue to study art whenever possible, and I also teach painting and drawing classes and workshops. I love to speak about art, share my experience and knowledge, and help my students achieve greater success.

I was recently honored as "One to Watch" by Watercolor Artist Magazine. My paintings have been published in Splash, The Artistic Touch, The Best of Watercolor, and Watercolor Artist. Creative Art Press has published a five-DVD instructional series, called "Creative Watercolor Painting Using Photos" featuring my watercolor demos. I am a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Watercolor West, North East Watercolor Society, and Southern Watercolor Society. My work can be found in galleries in the mid-Atlantic and Southern states, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. You can see many of my paintings and learn more about my art and my teaching by visiting my web site.

**Website:** <http://www.alexislavineartist.com/index.html>