MOVING TOWARD MODERN
Workshop Description

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This workshop is for those who want to add a more contemporary spirit to their work. Traditional approaches to design may suit most of us, but sometimes we yearn to put a little more "zip" into them, find newer ways to give a fresh, free look to what we see on the paper, compared to what we see before us. We'll find a way to move beyond traditional, but not into pure abstraction. If "semi-abstract" is really a word, then this is what this class is about.

We will discuss and illustrate the basic concepts of modern art, and learn some ways we can achieve a new look by their application through watercolor technique and concept. Some techniques will include lifting, use of line, creating planes for overlay perspective, abstracting shapes, and extending shapes to increase interest. Discussion and exercises will also emphasize modern compositional concepts and color usage.

Students will be asked to paint by assignment, using subject matter they bring to class (photos, sketches, paintings). Typically, after each assignment Ken and/or the students themselves will critique work. All comments must be positive.

About the Classes:

My classes are always positive. I do not point out what's wrong, but try to find how we can (together) improve what has been done, and build on what is already good in our work. I ask students to review their work (only if they want to), because I believe we remember what we verbalize and that what we've done right is what's important! So, I ask students to discuss what they've done right.

If art is drudgery, we shouldn't be doing it. I do everything I can to make my class an enjoyable, stimulating and challenging experience. This requires a lot of work on the students' part, too, but I've never had a complaint about the work. I believe students just think they're having fun.

I bet you will too!