

PINCELADAS DE ESPAÑA

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP
WITH JULIA BARMINOVA

March 21st and 22nd, 2026 | Madrid

*Realism in the
SEA:
Waves, Water & Reflections.*



Realism in the SEA: Waves, Water & Reflections.



Julia Barminova

Since 2012, Julia has been working in watercolor, combining classical painting with her own unique methods. She draws inspiration from travels to fishing villages and major port cities around the world. Julia has begun her most famous watercolor series, "Islands in the Current," dedicated to the interplay of light and color on the water's surface and the structure and configuration of ships, boats, and yachts.

She paints evocative images of hundreds of port cities she has visited. Since 2020, Julia has taken up sailing and has undertaken expeditions to the high latitudes of the Arctic and Antarctica. Her Instagram blog @juliabarminova is always full of artistic and useful information. Her audience is comprised of artists, beginners, and creatives from around the world. She regularly shares her tips and tricks, recent projects, event announcements, Q&As about her palette, materials and tools, techniques and styles, and more.

Since 2016, Julia has been a Royal Talens brand ambassador. She regularly leads workshops, demonstration classes, and presentations in Italy, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Spain, Portugal, and many other locations. In doing so, she strives to raise awareness about watercolor technique, painting styles and methods, the importance of the right tools, and one's own style.



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Realism in the SEA: Waves, Water & Reflections.

MATERIALS

What materials are recommended for this workshop?

Watercolors: The masterclass is sponsored by Royal Talens, and we are happy to provide all the Rembrandt and Van Gogh colors used by the instructor. Please bring your usual set of watercolors and a plastic palette.

Colors: The artist will have her most used colors available to the students.

Watercolor paper: For Julia's watercolor technique, the best paper is Arches Grain Fin 300gsm. You can use loose sheets of paper or a block. If you use loose sheets, don't forget the backing boards. The size is approximately 3040 x 3856 cm, half the size of a standard sheet.

Brushes: Large round squirrel brush - sizes 6-8; smaller round brushes made of synthetic fibers with sharp points - sizes 4-6; soft flat brush (pony, goat, or synthetic watercolor brush) - sizes 30-40. Any brand students are comfortable working with will do.

Palette: Large white palette (approximately 20 x 30 cm).

Drawing board: lightweight 30 x 40 cm or 40 x 60 cm. Other: 2B pencil, tape, eraser, sponge, etc.

*The organization will provide students with items such as blotting paper, towels, bowls, and water containers.

PROGRAM

DAY 1

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

FROM 10:00/20:00

**10:00-14:00. INTRODUCTION AND
FIRST EXERCISES.**

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. LUNCH BREAK.

**4:00 PM - 8:00 PM. TECHNIQUES
FOR DRAWING THE SEA.**

DAY 2

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND

FROM 10:00/14:00

**10:00-12:00. MODELS AT SEA AND
IN PORTS.**

12:00-14:00. STUDENT EXERCISE.

***A PLEIN-AIR SESSION IS AN OPTION DEPENDING ON
WEATHER CONDITIONS.**



PROGRAM

PART 1: PAINTING THE SEA SURFACE.

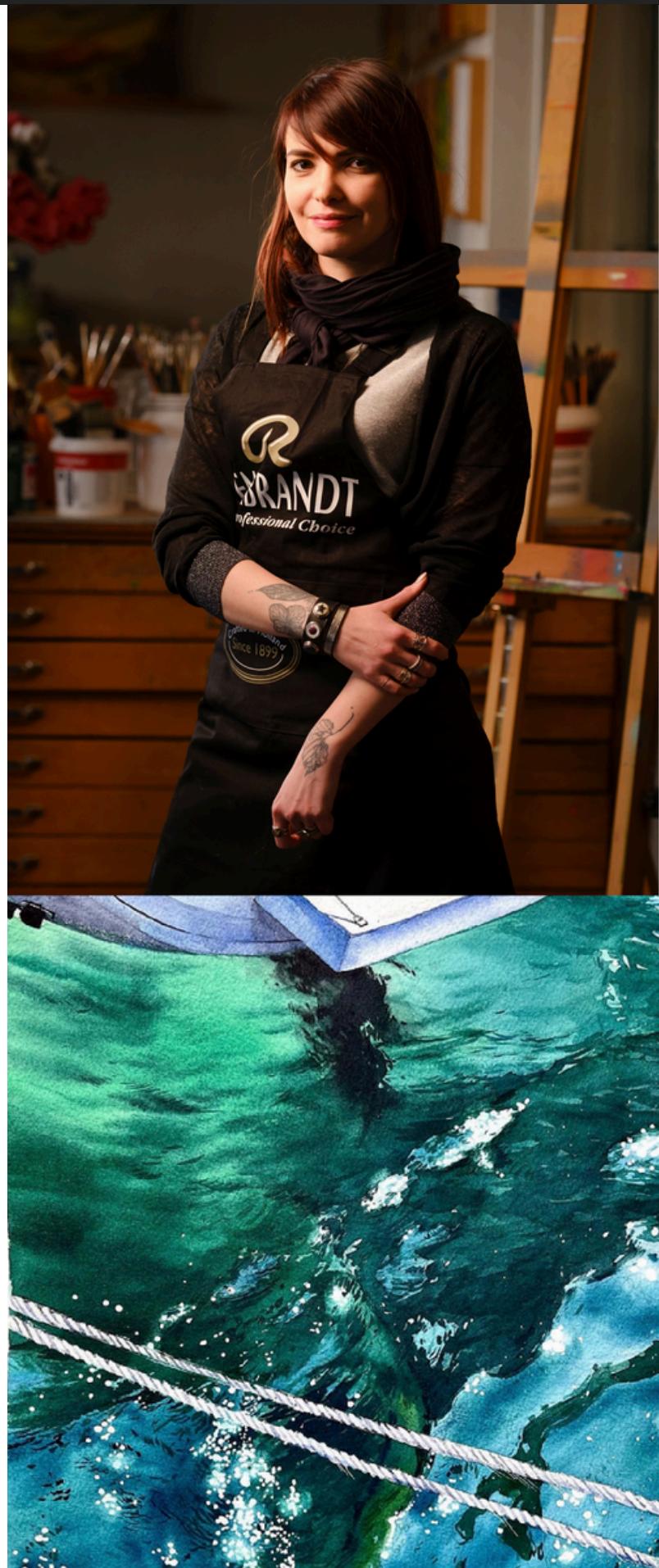
We'll focus on techniques for creating reflections, waves, and the play of light on moving water. You'll learn how to balance colors, control gradients, and convey the illusion of depth and movement in calm waters—ideal for mastering the subtleties of calm seas and reflective surfaces.

PART 2: DEPICTION OF BREAKING WAVES AND DYNAMIC SEASCAPES.

We'll take on the challenge of painting powerful crashing waves. You'll learn techniques to convey the power and energy of waves breaking against the shore, from capturing the texture of the foam to depicting spray and splashes. We'll focus on combining bold, expressive strokes with delicate details to achieve a realistic depiction of turbulent waters.

STUDY LOCATION:

HOTEL MIRÓ.
MAZARREDO ZAMARKALEA, 77
ABANDO (BILBAO).



THEME

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Discover the famous technique of the traveling watercolorist. How many times have you been breathless at the beauty of ocean waves? And how many times have you wanted to paint sails, light, and surface colors, all those sailing ropes, fishing tackle? But how many times have you tried to acquire the right technique to achieve the results you desired? That's precisely the answer you'll find here!

Julia Barminova is a watercolorist who has visited over 150 different port cities around the world, searching for new seascapes and inspiration. How to capture the best image of the water, the spirit of the port, and all the nuances of the watercolor technique will be the main topics of this class. Most importantly, you'll learn how to paint water effectively, not only in the studio but also outside, on your travels and en pleinair. That mesmerizing feeling when a bit of watercolor paint of different saturations and tones turns into something larger on paper!

By listening to the watercolor technique from easy to difficult, and by painting your own sea, after the workshop, my students can look back at the watercolor sea paintings with an exact understanding of HOW they were made. This workshop will focus on marine watercolor: textured fishing boats, sailboats in action, ocean waves breaking on coastal rocks, calm waters of smaller bays, yachts in the harbor.

WHAT TECHNIQUES WILL WE LEARN?

Analysis of the important characteristics of watercolor that are critical for expressing water when painting in the *alla prima* technique, using one layer of watercolor on paper. Various levels of complexity will be explored in a subject like the sea, including different types of reflections and refractions, light-seeking, and contrast. We will learn what to pay attention to when choosing the right composition and how to find a subject on location, in the harbor, and along the coastline. We will practice wave structure and working with the volume and dimensions of water. We will complete our first watercolor—a wet-on-wet wash of the sea. We will approach painting "seascapes" in watercolor in four stages: waves, reflections, boat, and details.

WHAT SKILLS WILL WE DEVELOP?

- Confident water painting skills both in the studio and outdoors;
- A deep understanding of how to use the unique properties of watercolor to capture various states of water;
- The ability to bring your creative vision to life in seascape painting.

Join us in Bilbao for this inspiring two-day journey into the world of watercolor, where you'll learn new techniques and capture the beauty of the sea on paper!

WORKSHOP PRICES

FULL COURSE: 350€

***VAT INCLUDED**

***COURSE DURATION: 12 HOURS DIVIDED INTO 3 BLOCKS OF 4 HOURS.**

***IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND ON A DAY, PLEASE CHECK AVAILABILITY.**

COLLABORATORS:

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