Wilderness and blooming flowers on Engeløya

Welcome to a course in two parts, comprised of elements of botany, drawing and painting, on the beautiful island of Engeløya in northern Norway, 6-12 July 2010.

Teaching languages: Norwegian, Swedish and English

Teachers: Linda Jolly (Teachers education dept., UMB, Ås), 6-9 July
               Solveig Slåttli (Teacher and artist), 6-9 July
               Jan van Boeckel (University of Art and Design Helsinki), 10-12 July

Place: Sjøhaugen farm, Engeløya

About the course

We want to connect with the blooming landscape on Engeløya from two different perspectives. In the first part of the course we acquaint ourselves with the plants, their development and form, partly through exercises in drawing and painting and partly through group observation. In the second part of the course we will paint the landscape in a more free and creative way.

In that way, we hope the course can provide a cross pollination of perspective in ways of strengthening our connection to nature through both biology and art.

The teachers of the first part of the course will partake in the second part and vice versa.

Engeløya is an idyllic small island, located between the majestic Lofoten islands and the main land. With its varied flora and fauna it is an ideal location to learn new skills and to enjoy the long day light in mid summer. Bicycles, canoes and a rowing boat can be borrowed at Sjøhaugen farm to explore the area.
A Wonder

A wonder is happening here and now
a flower becomes a flower
a blade of grass a blade of grass
if one pays attention and looks

Hans Børli

First course part: An eye for plants

Plants speak their own language. By studying how plants grow, from seed to fruit, and by observing their metamorphosis, we can acquaint ourselves in a new way with them. Nordahl Grieg once said that “to plants, botany is the worst thing they know.” We can leave the dissecting and making of herbaria aside and find other ways to get to know the world of plants.

For many years we have worked to engage both children and adults access to plants in a way that opens their interest in the continuously changing process of growth of a plant.

Drawing and painting are good tools to train our observation. The concepts we use in everyday life and our habitual ways of seeing things are expanded when we see in a new way, using pencil or paint brush.

Following “the tracks” of the way plants grow, we see the pattern that connects the year’s cycle, the rhythm of the day and the life story of a human being. We open ourselves to seeing with new eyes. The activities comprise both individual exercises and group discussions about our work, inside and outside.

Teachers: Linda Jolly and Solveig Slåttli
Second course part - “Wildpainting”

WILDPAINTING means two things: to paint wilderness and wild landscapes, and to paint in a different, surprising way. The aim is to open up to the aesthetics and the energies of the landscape through trying to see (and smell, know etc.) as if one perceives it for the first time. It means basically to dare to draw and paint in quite a different way than we are usually accustomed to: leaves don’t always have to be green and the sky not eternally blue. Instead the participants are encouraged to observe afresh, deeper and deeper, letting the motive come to them as they experience it there and then. In that way, the artistic process becomes something between meditation and perceiving the world in the way a child does. We use acrylic paints and heavy paper, charcoal and pencils.

The courses last six hours each day with regular breaks for tea and coffee, for lunch, or for taking some time to talk about what has happened up to that point. Every participant will also get personal comments and advice from the course teacher.

There is no demand of having prior artistic skills. What is needed was the enthusiasm to participate and a desire to learn something new, and to dare to participate in this process. The inspiration to the Wildpainting course comes from painter Paul Cézanne, who wrote: “The landscape thinks itself in me, and I am its consciousness.”

*Teacher: Jan van Boeckel*
Registration

Besides signing up for the whole course, it is also possible to register for one of the two parts only. The price includes three meals a day and coffee breaks. The meals will be prepared with local and (mostly) organic food. Overnight accommodation can be arranged in several different ways (see below)
To register, please send your name, address and e-mail address to linda.jolly@umb.no.
Part of the registration is payment of a deposit of NOK 2,000 on Nordea bank account 12540543621 (Linda Jolly). Please mark your payment with “Engeløya” and your name.
You will be informed about your registration latest 15th of May 2010. We will limit the amount of participants to 15.
The registration fee will be fully refunded if one cancels the registration before 15 May, 2010.
Participation in the whole course, including food, costs NOK 5,800. Participation in only the first or the second part costs NOK 3,500. Please mention in which part you would like to partake. Those who sign up for the complete course will be prioritized.

Accommodation

Rent of a summerhouse in the village of Røtnes on Engeløya - Here there are 3 houses for rent with standard accommodation for NOK 1,000 for 4 persons. Shared facilities.
Other summer houses - There are also other summer houses for rent from NOK 2,500 to NOK 5,000 per week. These need to be booked well in advance at www.steigenbooking.com/no/overnatting
Some of them are within cycling range of Røtnes.

Hotel Steigen (Steigen Hotell Engeløystua) - Mølleskog, 8289 Våg, Phone (+47) 75 77 95 00.
With breakfast: Double room: NOK 1,150. Single room: NOK 950 per night. www.steigenhotell.no
Sjøhaugen gård - Another option is to put up a tent (shower and washing machine at farm) for NOK 500 per week.

Please note that accommodation costs are not included in the course fee!
How to get there

TRAIN: You can either come by train either to Narvik (through Sweden) and by bus (4 hours) to Engeløya or by train to Fauske (through Norway) and by bus to Engeløya (3 hours).

PLANE: The nearest airport is in Bodø and there is a fast boat leaving Bodø at 17.15 on weekdays and Saturdays. Friday 18.00 and Sunday 20.30. Return from Engeløya 07.50 arriving 10.00 on weekdays and Saturdays. Sunday leaving at 17.20 arriving at 19.30.

BY CAR: Follow the E6 to Tømmernesset and follow signs for Steigen, Engeløya, Røtnes.

BY BIKE: There are increasingly many who come biking on the island.

You can bring your bike on the train and boat and if you like to take the course as part of your holiday you can put your bike on the fast boat to the spectacular Lofoten Islands (1.5 h) and bike to Å, the very tip of the Lofotens and get the ferry back to Bodø.

Registration form (please send to: linda.jolly@umb.no)

Name:
Postal address:
E- mail address:
Whole course □
Or only course part 1 □ or course part 2: □
Requested type of accommodation: