

The following are copies of actual letters of recommendation from previous workshop participants.

Butterfly Graphics
Fine Art, Illustration, Murals
Art Instruction
541-482-3015, Ashland, OR
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February 3, 2006

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a long-time artist and art instructor, but I jumped at the chance to take Irene Brady's Nature Sketching Workshop last summer. Irene has illustrated many nature books, and is known as an excellent teacher, not only for beginners but for people wanting to brush up on their artistic skills. As a teacher, I was also curious about her techniques.

I wasn't disappointed. Over the course of a single day, I watched her boost rank beginners from stick-figure drawing level to an ability to sketch natural objects like feathers, bones and pine cones realistically. She gave a short introductory talk, then put the students to work using that information as she went quietly from student to student as they drew. She spent quality time with every person in the class, checking on each student's progress and pointing out places and ways to make improvements in a tactful and perceptive manner that was easy to accept. Even though I have been drawing from nature for many years, I learned new art techniques specific to nature illustration and also interesting tips about the use of drawing tools and materials that I have been able to incorporate into my art instruction.

As a teacher, I appreciated how she was able to bring each person along at his or her own speed and comfort level. At the end of the day, the students (including a twelve year old boy and an elderly woman) were pleased with their progress and amazed at their own unexpected ability to draw. Irene had taught them ways to transfer an image from the source, through the eye, to the hand and paper; and they had also learned how to observe and apply shading to make their drawing look 3-dimensional. The students had made a lot of progress in a very short time.

I'd recommend Irene Brady's workshops for any group of people with an interest in nature and a desire to draw and sketch. She has a tremendous fund of knowledge about nature in general, a good sense of humor, and would be an asset to any nature-oriented travel adventure tour.

Sincerely,

Cathy Egelston

Ilona Sweeten
Ashland, OR 97540

February 12, 2006

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to recommend Irene Brady as an excellent drawing teacher. I took a class with Ms. Brady, starting out without any experience in art. In her class, the other students and I (some of us without any previous artistic experience) were given instruction, encouragement and confidence to draw well beyond our expectations from the very first hour.

The skills that I have learned from Irene allowed me to apply them in my homeschool teaching work and even to help illustrate a brochure for the local nature center here in Ashland.

While teaching she is able to show students how to improve without seeming critical. She is a good instructor both for beginners and people who already are artists. She taught me how to access my right brain so that I can now draw what I see realistically and well. It is exciting to discover a talent I didn't even know I had.

To me Irene is not only a brilliant teacher but she became much more. She not only gives you her attention and time, she gives you her heart.

Sincerely,

Ilona Sweeten
Student