

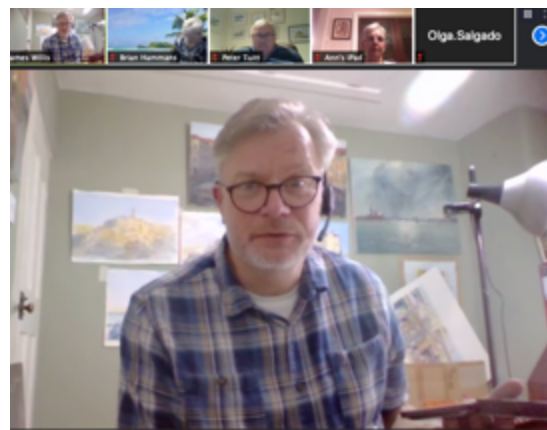
## JAMES WILLIS ZOOM DEMONSTRATION



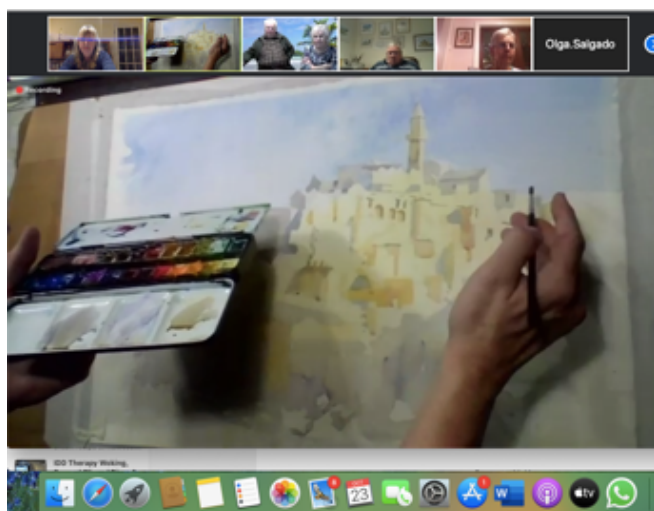
On 23<sup>rd</sup> October James Willis gave a demonstration of a watercolour landscape based on this painting of the Italian hillside town of Matera in Southern Italy. The aim of the demonstration was to explore the colour relationships of complementary colours.

James Willis has a BA Hons degree in fine art, and he enjoys teaching and travelling with groups abroad to paint. He has adapted his teaching to the current circumstances by offering Zoom Art classes and information about these can be found on his website:

<https://www.jameswillisart.co.uk>



Matera in Puglia is a UNESCO world heritage site built in the Renaissance. When James was there he made lots of sketches on site before making his painting. He chose an evening view when the sunlight cast shadows and produced the contrast of golden buildings and violet shadows. He used 140 lb Saunders Waterford NOT hot press watercolour paper. This is good for wet-on-wet painting.



While painting on site and for this demonstration he used an Artist Quality Winsor & Newton paintbox. In order to demonstrate painting this scene he needed to simplify it a little for a two hour Zoom demonstration. He started with a sketch he had prepared earlier. He began by painting the golden colour in the centre working very wet in wet.

For the yellow/orange to capture the golden light he used Indian Yellow, Raw Sienna, Burnt Sienna and Winsor Orange. It is important to let the light colours dry before attempting to paint the sky. He noted that because of the time of day the sky is lighter at the base behind the buildings. He used Cobalt Blue at the top and introduced Cobalt Violet for the weaker colour at the base. To lay the sky colour the board must be at a tilt to allow the water to flow from one horizontal line of wash into the next.

The next stage is to enrich the colours to bring out the buildings. To paint the shadows, he used French Ultra Marine, Ultra Marine Violet, Cobalt Violet and Cobalt Blue. The complimentary colours of orange and blue will produce shades of grey. Cast shadows are generally darker than reflected ones. The deeper shadows give dimension to the buildings but mixing more than three colours results in the paint losing transparency. The beauty of watercolour is that it can be built up with layering. The intensity of colour will develop.



This is a screen shot of the painting at the end of two hours. It was fascinating to watch it develop and to hear the artist explain what he was doing and why. “Be brave! Creativity takes courage” he said, and he advised everyone to try something new and different at times.