



## LOOSE AND LIVELY WATERCOLORS



British expat artist **Mat Barber Kennedy**, R.I., has made Chicago his home since 1995. He paints bold, explosive watercolor renderings of the buildings we all live in and walk past every single day. He chooses structures which have a huge wealth of joy in them, and the subsequent paintings pulsate with lifelike kineticism.

Peninsula School of Art is excited to welcome Mat for a watercolor painting workshop that will change the way you approach painting. Experiment with a loose, lively style, discovering new ways to see and respond to the world, to bring freedom and spontaneity to your watercolors. The focus will be on dramatic compositional editing, working with negative space, and allowing watercolor to do what only watercolor can. You will paint both outside on location and work on still life in the studio, as Mat demonstrates and discusses the techniques and working habits that have contributed to his unique style. Beginning with color

preparatory sketches, you will learn how to achieve a finished statement.

Coming from a family of architects, Mat also originally trained as an architect. However, in 1988 he gave up professional architectural practice to focus on painting, and graduated from the Royal College of Art in London, one of the most influential, wholly postgraduate universities of art and design in the world.

His striking architectural studies in watercolor quickly gained him considerable acclaim, and he received the Architectural Award from the Royal Institute of Painters of Water Colour. The Royal Institute was founded in 1807 when the Royal Academy



was refusing to accept watercolors as a suitable medium for serious artistic expression, despite its use by many highly regarded painters including Cotman, Turner, and others. Mat was made a full member (R.I.) in 1994, and in 2008 he was awarded the prestigious Turner Watercolour Award and Medal from the Royal Academy of Arts in London, which had not been awarded since 2000.

Mat's art practice revolves around a cycle of international traveling, exploring, sketching, painting, and exhibiting in galleries worldwide. In 2006 he opened MBK Studios, which includes a gallery space and studios for several artists. He has taught at universities and secondary schools in the Chicago area. Currently, he teaches at the American Academy of Art and leads workshops in Chicago and abroad.



Mat says of his painting and teaching: "Time and again I find myself attracted by the everyday, informal vernacular architecture of a place. I tend to be drawn to the small tailor's shop just down the street from the fabulous palace; the crumbling café opposite the cathedral. I surround myself in the studio with whatever I can to evoke the sounds, smells, and tastes of the place to try to keep my memories sharp. The paintings rarely turn out quite as I think they will and, if they did, I'd be disinclined to go through

the motions of making them."

"The goal is to produce a painting which excites an emotional response, and it is possible for students to achieve that, whatever their level of technical expertise. There is no right way or wrong way to create art. The best paintings are like new recipes – they require knowledge of the rudiments of cooking, but come alive by combining ingredients in a new and distinctive way. Know what you want to paint about, and paint what you want to know about. Worry about making good pictures, and the techniques will look after themselves."

Join us July 19-21, 2010, in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin, for this unique opportunity from an internationally recognized master of watercolor: **Loose & Lively Watercolors with Mat Barber Kennedy**