Elements of Abstraction, Painting Freely
with Michael Gadlin

The Big Idea
In this workshop, students will gain confidence toward taking an abstract approach towards painting. Learn how practicing staying loose, leaning on intuition and your sense of design is so important and vital to an artist’s practice.

You’ll Need
- Any water-based paint (house paint)
- Old Brushes
- Various tools to lay on paint (sponge, chopstick, spoon, folk, spatula, etc...)
- Paint Marker, (Pencil, Pen, Sharpie)
- A surface to paint on (cardboard, wood panels, paper, mat board, paper bag, old bed sheet) - Preferably a thicker or heavy surface when painting on
- Step-By-Step video tutorial: www.think360arts.org

The Plan
- Step 1- Gather materials together.
- Step 2 - Find and prepare surface for painting.
- Step 3 - Fill water container.
- Step 4 - Have tools and/or old brushes ready.
- Step 5 - Start with the largest tool/brush.
- Step 6 - Cover entire area w/ the strongest color you decide.
- Step 7- Establish a shape that takes up much of the surface.
- Step 8 - Now respond to the first mark or shape.

Teaching Artist Tip
- Think “Variety” when it comes to visual elements that work together in any piece. Not necessarily “matching” elements. Rather complimenting elements.
- What visually “feels” right together?
- Creating harmony aligns with all the elements in a piece, not just the color palette.