



The Florence Academy of Art

Six-week Intensive Course: Drawing, Painting and Art History

Drawing, Painting and Art History

Beginning - Intermediate - Advanced levels welcome

In Florence, students discover the richness and beauty of Italian painting fused with academic draughtsmanship, and endeavour to discover how the masters created works of such universal significance.

DRAWING AND PAINTING A short distance from the historic city centre in a quiet Italian neighbourhood, students will work from easels under natural north light, just like the old master painters of the past. Florence Academy faculty will guide students through the techniques of sharpening charcoal, blocking in the shadow shapes, and understanding how to translate three-dimensional forms into two dimensions. Instruction is designed to take students of all levels through a series of exercises aimed to develop their observational skills and accuracy in drawing and painting, whilst learning a methodology to translate and record directly from nature.

During the mornings, students will immerse themselves in the study and practice of drawing; in the afternoons, they will practice the technique of oil painting.

A brief introduction to copying from old master drawings to understand measurement, proportion and shadow shape, students progress to drawing from the plaster cast, and painting the still life, portrait and the figure. They will practice using charcoal and oil. The program is very similar to the one offered to full time students and allows students to experience each part of its regular painting curriculum at The Florence Academy of Art.

Working from life is a unique and fulfilling experience, one that is fundamental to the training at the Florence Academy and central to a long-standing tradition. Working from a live model, students will learn how to approach the human figure, observing proportion, body type and gesture and important anatomical points. With pencil there will be a linear approach focusing on outline and shadow line to explain the form. With charcoal and oil paint, focus will be on mass and overall sense of light and atmosphere through comparison of light and shadow shapes.

During their free time, students will be encouraged to sketch the main monuments and *piazzas*, or drawing in museums like the *Specola* (Zoology section of Florence's Natural History Museum), the *Bargello Sculpture Museum*, or the *Museo del Duomo*.

STUDIO PROJECTS IN DEPTH

I. Copy of 19th Bague drawings & Old Master copies in pencil, charcoal, sanguine and silverpoint

Students begin by copying 19th Century drawings produced by Charles Bague by request of Jean-Léon Gérôme. Originally discovered in the archives of the Victoria and Albert museum by Florence Academy founder, Daniel Graves, and brought to use in the drawing program in

Florence, the simplified forms of the Bargue drawings enable students to understand our process, focusing on outline, proportion, value and line quality. At this stage, students learn the sight-size method of measurement to view the subject correctly and reproduce it accurately. This method will be later applied to cast, portrait and figure exercises as students acquire the ability to translate three-dimensional form into two dimensions.

II. Cast Drawing, Portraiture and Still Life in charcoal and oil

The practice of drawing from classical statuary helped great painters of the past learn their craft. By copying plaster casts and drawing portraits, students continue to develop observation and drawing skills whilst learning to work from nature. Ultimately, this practice allows them to confront one of the greatest challenges: the human figure.

Emphasis is placed on describing form through the relationship of light and shadow, controlling values and rendering edges. In still life projects, strong emphasis is placed on design and composition.

III. Figure Drawing & Painting from Life

The figure is the centre of the Academy's curriculum and will be at the core of our 6-week program. Students will be introduced to the human form through weekly pencil studies from life. Through these exercises they will learn how to observe and record nature, using simple line and shadow shapes. They will then progress to week-long studies in charcoal and oil that will develop awareness of anatomy and focus on light and shadow to explain form. Models will pose for three hours per session, allowing time for students to make careful observations and produce an accurate drawing or painting.

ART SUPPLIES Students will receive a list of materials to purchase. On the first day of class, they will be accompanied to a local art supply store where they will enjoy a discounted price on hand-made charcoal from France, paper from Italy, and the sketchbook to record their impressions of their time in Florence.

ART HISTORY INSTRUCTION Renaissance artists placed man at the centre of the universe. Today, their master works inspire contemporary painters and sculptors for their ability to transcend time, and enter the realm of our experience. Students will look to answer how Renaissance artists found and translated the human figure, from static to *contropposto* to spiralling forms in space. They will step in close to observe their fondly worked surfaces, to understand how sculptors used texture and polish to create the painter's equivalent of chromatics.

To understand how the Renaissance took root and flourished, students will walk through Florence, and visit its main sites. What was Florence like in the 1400's? Who were its main political, religious and artistic figures? How were power, wealth and faith expressed through buildings and artwork. By visiting Florence's principal museums and churches art will tell the story of powerful families like the Medici, religious orders like the Franciscans, and the merchant guilds.

Art History Highlights: Michelangelo and Brunelleschi, Giotto and Masaccio, Ghiberti and Donatello, Giambologna at the Loggia dei Lanzi. Visits to the *Uffizi* Gallery, the *Accademia* Gallery

and Michelangelo's unfinished, *Slaves*, and *David*, the *Bargello* Sculpture Museum, and the Modern Art Gallery (19th century painting) at the Pitti Palace.

Intensive Six-week Course Daily Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1					
Am	Orientation & set up	Bargue copy	Bargue copy	Figure in pencil	Museum visit
Pm	Master copies in Pencil and Charcoal	Master copies in Pencil and Charcoal	Master copies In Pencil and Charcoal	Free	Free
WEEK 2					
Am	Bargue copy	Bargue copy	Bargue copy	Figure in pencil	Museum visit
Pm	Still life in Oil	Still life in Oil	Still Life in Oil	Free	Free
WEEK 3					
Am	Cast Drawing	Cast Drawing	Cast Drawing	Figure in pencil	Museum visit
Pm	Still life in Oil	Still life in Oil	Still Life in Oil	Free	Free
WEEK 4					
Am	Cast Drawing	Cast Drawing	Cast Drawing	Figure in pencil	Museum visit
Pm	Still life in Oil	Still life in Oil	Still life in Oil	Free	Free
WEEK 5					
Am	Figure drawing	Figure drawing	Figure drawing	Figure drawing	Free
Pm	Portrait in Oil	Portrait in Oil	Portrait in Oil	Free	Free
WEEK 6					
Am	Figure drawing	Figure drawing	Figure drawing	Figure drawing	Free
Pm	Portrait in Oil	Portrait in Oil	Portrait in Oil	Group critique	Free

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT Throughout the students time in Florence, The Florence Academy administrative staff will be available to answer questions and provide full services and support. Students will be accommodated in furnished apartments with other students on the program. These are within walking distance from the school building, and ten minutes from the historic centre of Florence.

Cost per person: U.S. \$ 5,200.00.

What's included?

- Accommodations in a furnished apartment with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities.
- Instruction, guided visits, activities and entrance fees as stated in your itinerary
- Student Services Support of Florence Academy office staff

What's not included?

Transportation to/from Florence, Travel insurance, Visas, Airport transfers, Meals, Drinks, Optional excursions, Items of a personal nature including spending money, Tips and gratuities.