

**Workshop from 23 to 27 may 2027**  
**Still life**  
led by **Lydia CECIL**

**Course fee**

**€400 for a 4-day course**

Paid directly to the artist (accommodation not included)

See payment and accommodation conditions in 'prices and accommodation'

**Detailed description of the workshop – Still life**

Painting a still life is a celebration of technique, form and style. This workshop will guide you through some clear techniques to create that form and enhance your own individual style.

The process of painting will be broken down into clear stages. The time available means you have the space to fully explore each stage. The principles we will learn apply across many artistic disciplines, so you can use them in whatever your usual artistic practice is. They are useful wherever you are in your artistic journey – whether you are starting out or experienced.

**Day 1**

- Introductions and explanation of the course,
- Explanation of materials to be used and making sure everyone has what they need.
- Discussing compositional theories, methods and lighting in setting up a still life
- Drawing out the composition in paint. Explanation of measuring techniques and looking for masses of light and dark, including a simple demonstration.
- Laying down the first layer of simple colour across the whole composition. This involves focusing on value (tone) and concentrating on getting larger shapes in first, ignoring detail for now.

**Day 2**

- Reassess what we did the day before.
- Followed by an explanation and quick demonstration of what we will focus on this day.
- For the next layer of paint, we will concentrate on building up shapes and colours. This will involve explorations of light and colour theory.

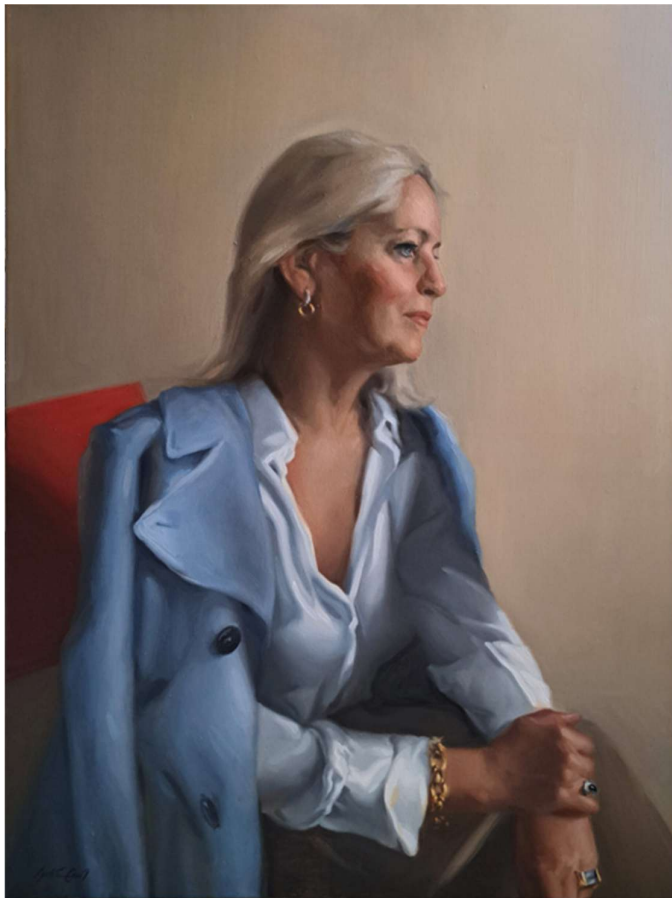
**Day 3**

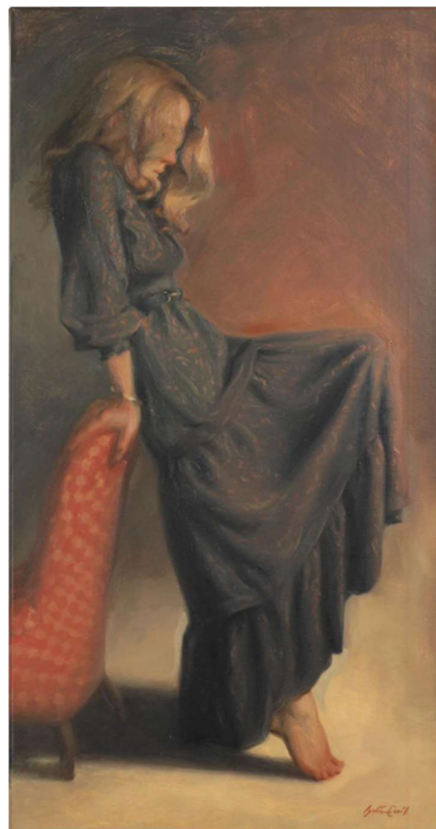
- Reassess what we did the day before.
- Then explanation and quick demonstration of what we will focus on this day.
- We will explore the concept of Edges – this helps create form and describe different textures.

**Day 4**

- For the last day, students will have the option of staying one more day on their painting, or can choose to do a one-day alla prima new painting.
- For those choosing to continue working on their first painting, we can discuss further rendering, pushing the still life to a finish and concepts of focal points.
- For those choosing a new alla prima, you can bring together and consolidate all the principles learnt in a fresh new way and experiment with painting a little quicker, and 'wet-on-wet'.

Some of the artist's works





## Biography

Lydia Cecil trained at the London Atelier of Representational Art.

On her graduation she taught at the same school, before becoming a tutor at Raw Umber Studios. She also tutors at College Art Studios and Studio Valdus.

She been on art residencies at New Generation Festival, Florence and Tiapapata Art Centre, Samoa.

Her recent exhibitions include a solo show 'A Room with a View' in Valletta, Malta, and group shows 'Familiar' at the Green & Stone Gallery, London and 'Time to Fear Contemporary Art', Gallery 8, London.

Between exhibitions, she completes portrait, figure and still life commissions for private clients.

## Technique and style

Cecil's style is representational. This style demands an understanding of underlying academic principles such as structure, shape design and colour theory, while describing chosen subjects in a way beyond simply copying.

The aim is to create a piece that is interesting, insightful and natural to digest visually.

It is a constant and fascinating search to achieve this.