

Workshop from 24 to 29 october 2027

Portrait or Nude Figure

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 – Portrait or Nude Figure

Artists have always sought to capture the human form. It is complex, yet familiar and therefore infinitely interesting to us. Painting from life teaching us to observe and chase expression like nothing else (and is more fun). This workshop will break down the process of painting a portrait/figure into clear stages. It is rare to be able to spend such a long time with a model in pose, and it means we can fully understand and absorb each stage of the process. The techniques we learn are founded in traditional academic study, developed over many generations. But they are just as relevant and applicable to contemporary artistic practices. They give you a strong foundation for your own style and subject matter to flourish. It also means it is useful to any stage in your artistic journey – whether you are just 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.
- Drawing out the composition in paint. Explanation of measuring techniques, useful anatomical points and how to look for masses of light and dark. Includes a 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.
- Then 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

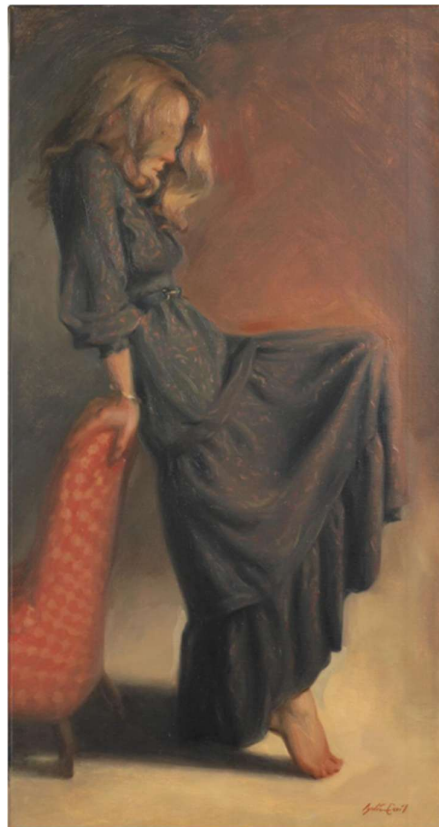
- Reassess what we did the day before.
- Then explanation and quick demonstration of what we will focus on this day.
- We will explore the concept of Edges – this helps create form and describe the figure/portrait.

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. (This will be dependent on new spaces available around the model/students willing to swap with each other.)
- For those choosing to continue working on their first painting, we can discuss further rendering, pushing the painting to a finish and the concept 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.