

Atelier Program

The Atelier Program is rooted in classical methods of representational drawing and painting. The foundational drawing studies follow the classical course developed by artists Charles Bargue and Jean-Léon Gérôme. Through guided, independent study, students practice accurate observation, proportion, value, edges and the simplification of form. These skills provide a foundation for cast drawing and drawing and painting from life, including portrait, figure and still life. Study is arranged individually, by appointment.

BARGUE DRAWING: Using the sight-size method of measuring, students copy two-dimensional master drawings, working within a limited range of values to concentrate on shapes and proportions. A typical sequence includes four studies (three in graphite and one in charcoal) as preparation for cast drawing.

CAST DRAWING: Students use the sight-size method to render three-dimensional casts from life. Vine charcoal introduces a broader range of values. A typical sequence includes four cast studies, providing a foundation for still life, figure and portrait work.

CHOOSE YOUR FOCUS

STILL LIFE PAINTING introduces composition, color mixing and a broader range of values. Studies include preparing the painting surface, developing an underpainting and rendering the finished work. The traditional curriculum includes six paintings.

FIGURE DRAWING AND PAINTING emphasizes accurate proportions using the sight-size method. Studies may progress from graphite to larger charcoal drawings and paintings, with an emphasis on form and shadow shapes. The traditional curriculum includes graphite studies, five charcoal drawings and three paintings.

PORTRAIT DRAWING AND PAINTING explores methods of measuring and rendering a realistic portrait, from graphite studies to charcoal on toned paper and painting. The traditional curriculum includes graphite studies, four charcoal drawings and four paintings.

The sequence and scope of studies are discussed individually. Figure and portrait work with live models is subject to scheduling and model availability. Students interested in pursuing a certificate should discuss the study and exhibition requirements with the school.

Scheduling and studio access: Atelier instruction and studio visits are by appointment. Please contact the school to discuss current availability and individual arrangements.

Tuition: Please contact Jo Ellen Reinhardt at nesfa.worcester@gmail.com for current tuition and details.

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