

# NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

## OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Summer 2023

Painting Marathon – IN-PERSON

Pompeii, Harmonics and Mystery

**Instructors:** Sam Levy, Kaitlin McDonough, Clintel Steed

**Class Hours:** 9am-1pm ; 2pm-6pm

**Dates:** July 10 - 21 (daily, excluding weekends)

### Course Description

Buried under two days of the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, the frescos in Pompeii, Italy, lived frozen beneath time and space until archaeological digs exposed its wonder mostly in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These paintings contain mysteries upon mysteries. Based upon the firsthand knowledge and experience of the three Instructors' recent travels to draw onsite from these frescos, this Marathon will look to unlock Pompeii's vitality and potent story through the act of painting and drawing in New York City this summer. This two-week Painting Marathon, will use the Roman wall paintings to guide to our personal and collective journeys in class. By working with live models, personal narratives, and transcription imagery, we will create original paintings in dialogue with these uniquely timeless works of humanity. This Marathon will explore color, composition, site specificity, scale, proportion, human gesture, form, volume, weight, story, and will expand in search of poetry, sound, theatre and mystery. Over the arc of the course, participants will better understand notions of time and rhythm in painting, and what it means to construct a dynamic room of potent imagery. Made with a particularity to place, our work will unearth individual meaning and significance of purpose.

### Course Outline

Each day of this Marathon will present the opportunity to explore different aspects of Roman Wall painting and the creation of powerful, mysterious imagery. We will explore the ways in which figures occupy the rectangle and its various spatial relationships with the picture plane. Working with transcription, live models, and our own narratives, we will have the opportunity to discover the ways in which the human form interacts with the geometry of the painted surface. Color will be an essential element of our work and we will focus on creating color harmonies and relationships. We will also experience the power of scale and the ways in which different pictorial languages can reinforce, subvert, and compliment one another within a given piece. Over the two weeks, participants will develop their own paintings and will create larger collaborations with classmates. Students should expect to work on a variety of small and large scale projects that may be quickly made, or or extend over several days. Daily group critiques and class discussion will occur, critiques may occasionally extend beyond 6pm.

### Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this Marathon, participants will have a better understanding of the figure and its spatial relationship to the picture plane in painting; when it exists on the picture plane and when it does not. They will better understand what it means to study the language of a painting and what it means to look at a painting, understand the space by recreating it, finding it in nature, or within your own space. Students will be able to create paintings based on their own personal narratives and imbue these works with rhythm, meaning,

and geometry. Students will be able to understand and to discuss their work in relation to art historical references from Roman wall painting and contextualize their work as part of a living lineage.

### **Assessable Tasks**

Participants will create paintings of various size and duration, independently and collaboratively, during this Marathon. They will manipulate scale, surface, color relationships, and learn to pull from history to make works that resonate in the present.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

NYSS MFA students participating in this course will receive grades. Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must have strong attendance and participation as evidenced through group and one-on-one discussions and responsiveness to prompts and suggestions from the Instructor; complete painting assignments; demonstrate an openness to learning and collaboration (when applicable with group projects).

### **Readings and Resources**

Suggested readings and resources will be distributed during the Marathon.

### **Materials and supplies**

Vine Charcoal (suggested 1 or 2 bags of Bob's Vine Charcoal or the equivalent in Coates)

Gesso

Staple gun

Acrylic Gloss Medium

A wide range of brushes for acrylic and oil paint\* (students have the option to work in acrylic or oil)

Paper towels

Gamsol odorless minerals spirits and a glass jar with metal lid

Palette for paint (large butcher trays are ok)

A chamois cloth

4 Staedler Erasers

Containers for acrylic

Plastic Wrap

artist tape/ masking tape

A sketchbook (recommended)

Range of pencils

colored pencils (optional)

watercolors (optional)

Scissors

Palette knife (knives)

**PAPER: 20 sheets of 30" X 22" paper**

**Canvases (panels and/or gessoed paper may be substituted for canvas):**

20 surfaces: 16" X 20"

5 surfaces: 40" X 40"

5 surfaces: 30" X 40"

2 surfaces: 72" X 48"

1 surface: 72" X 60"

**Acrylic paint (please have these acrylic colors even if you will be painting with oil):**

Titanium white  
Lemon Yellow  
Yellow ochre  
Burnt sienna  
Raw umber  
Alizarin Crimson  
Cadmium Red Light  
Red Oxide OR Venetian Red  
Prussian Blue OR Cerulean Blue  
Terre Verte (optional)  
Green Chrome Oxide  
Viridian  
Lamp Black AND/OR Peach Black or another cold black  
Ivory Black

**Oil Paint OR Acrylic Paint colors (large tubes when possible):**

Flake White  
Titanium White  
Cadmium Red Light (or Vermilion)  
Cadmium Red Medium  
Earth Red OR Red Oxide OR Venetian Red...Williamsburg sells a Pompeii Red in oil  
Alizarin Crimson or another cooler red  
Lemon Yellow  
Yellow Ochre  
Cadmium Yellow Medium  
Naples Yellow (optional)  
Ultramarine Blue  
Indigo  
Cerulean Blue  
Cobalt Blue (optional)  
Green Chrome Oxide  
Viridian  
Phthalo Green (optional)  
Terre Verte (small quantity)  
Mars Violet or Caput Mortem  
Lamp or Mars Black  
Ivory Black

**School, Department & Class Policies**

Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook and on the School's website, as well as any specific instructions given by the Instructor.