

Painting with Pastel Under the Tuscan Sun

with Artist/instructor

Jane Sun

Cortona, Italy

April 10-17, 2010

“Imagine yourself under the glorious Tuscan Sun; smelling the aroma from the lavender fields, olive groves and vineyards; overlooking a breathtaking vista; strolling through narrow winding stone paths; experiencing the resonance of centuries-old civilization; and gasping over treasures of paintings by old masters. What better can you do but to capture all these experiences, senses and moments not only into memories but on paper with pastel? Bring your plein air gear and take back with you some telling paintings to show and share.”

Read more about this workshop below...

All-inclusive* workshop includes:

Escorted group travel

*Rome to Cortona April 10, 2010*****

Instruction in the classroom and on location

Seven accommodations

*in historic Cortona** (Private room & bath)*

Tuscan Cooking Class

Local Etruscan Museum & Museo Diocesano

*All meals*** (Italian breakfast, lunch and dinner)*

Daily wine tasting opportunities

Day shopping and sightseeing trip to Florence

A farewell wine tasting dinner

***Included with "Casa Betania" plans only. See details.*

****Included with "Group Meal Plan" only. See details.*

*****Specific departure time only; to be announced*

**All-inclusive plans are Hotel plans A, C, E, G and Hostel plans I & K only. Air travel and ground transportation to/from Cortona is not included and is the responsibility of each participant.*

Casa Betania Special...

*All-inclusive w/ private room/bath &
Group Meal Plan...\$2849.00 per person!
\$2749.00 per person double occupancy
w/Group Meal Plan!
Special Non-participant rates*

About Cortona...

Cortona is one of the true jewels of the Tuscan “hill towns.” Cortona, which is often called the “City of Art,” has its origin as an Etruscan city that pre-dates Roman times with sections of its walls dating back some 2500 years. As is typical of Tuscan hill-towns, Cortona is a walled city that, for purposes of defense, was built atop a prominent geographical point. The stone buildings and streets not only have the romance, style, and charm that are particular to Tuscany, but also speak of the lives and times Cortona has witnessed. An encounter with Cortona is an encounter with music & art, with history and with spirituality. Getting to know this timeless city is a real rediscovery of our past. Cortona offers testimony to its history as well as an enchanting view of the landscape enclosed by Lake Trasimeno and the Apennine mountains.

About this workshop...

There will be one four-hour morning session and one three-hour afternoon session on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We will also have a painting day on Thursday at the fishing village of San Feliciano on Lago Trasimeno, located in Umbria, where the waters are still fished commercially by local fisherman using traditional methods.

During our sessions in Cortona we will have the opportunity to revisit the same painting locations twice in a row to finish a painting under similar light conditions. For example: for mornings sessions of Sunday and Monday we will meet at the same place and the afternoon sessions of those two days will

be at a different location. Naturally, weather will also be taken into consideration.

There will be demonstration as well as plenty of time for one-on-one work with each participant.

During our day-trip to Florence we will have time to sightsee as well as to visit the Uffizi Gallery, home of many wonderful works of art. While at the Uffizi, we will choose a few of our favorite paintings and share with the group what captures our imagination and fancy about them. While in Florence we can also visit art supply shops like Zecchi and Manzani!

Our week will be filled with wonderful painting subjects and opportunities all while being surrounded by the very best Tuscany and its people have to offer!

Itinerary

Note: Itinerary subject to change

Saturday – Arrival in Cortona

- Arrival and Check-in in Cortona
- 7:00p Welcome to Cortona wine and chocolate tasting at La Saletta.
- 8:00p Evening dinner in Cortona at La Loccanda nel Loggiatto

Sunday - Cortona

- 9:00a-1:00p Morning Session
- 1:00p Lunch
- 3:00-6:00p Afternoon Session
- 7:30p Wine tasting
- 8:00p Evening dinner in Cortona

Monday - Cortona

- 9:00-1:00p Morning Session
- 1:00p Lunch
- 3:00-6:00p Afternoon Session
- 7:30p Wine tasting
- 8:00p Evening dinner in Cortona

Tuesday - Florence

- 8:00a Taxi to Camucia Station (train at 8:30a)

- 4:09p Depart Florence
- 7:00p Taxi to Piazza della Repubblica-7:30p Wine at TBA
- 8:00p Dinner in Cortona

Wednesday - Cortona

- 9:00-12:00p Morning Session
- 12:00p Lunch
- 2:00-5:00p Afternoon Session
- 5:45p Taxi to Tuscan cooking class & dinner

Thursday - Lago Trasimeno & Isola Maggiore

- 7:40a - Depart Cortona and travel to Passignano
- 8:05a – Depart Camucia by train for Passignano followed by boat to Isola Maggiore
- 1:00p Lunch
- 6:30p Taxi to Piazza della Repubblica
- 7:30p Wine tasting
- 8:00p Dinner in Cortona

Friday - Cortona

- 9:00-1:00p Morning Session
- 1:00p Lunch at La Loccanda nel Loggiatto
- 3:00-6:00p Afternoon Session
- 7:30p Wine tasting
- 8:00p Farewell Wine Tasting Dinner in Cortona at Osteria del Teatro

Saturday – Cortona

- Morning Check-out and departure from Cortona or we can help you plan an extended stay!
- Each guest must make taxi/travel requests through the Hotel front desk.

Note: Toscana Americana reserves the right to alter this itinerary.
All times are approximate

What to bring to this workshop...

General Guideline

Bring the smallest and lightest version of each item, because we will need to carry our own gear as we venture from one painting location to another. It would be good to fit everything in one bag or backpack, so that it is easier to transport.

Pastels

The assortment of pastels should be some what small so that they can be stored in a compact carrying case. Bring a good combination of soft and hard pastels. The brands include the hardest (such as NuPastels), medium (such as Rembrandt) and the softest (such as Unison, Schmincke, Sennelier). It's important to have a sufficient number of pastels, especially for the subtle colors and values. But, since we are painting plein-air, we cannot take too many

either. We can learn to mix and layer colors on the paper when we paint. Following is a list for your reference. Each category can have 5 to 8 different values, hardness/softness and brands. By bringing one half or a third of each stick of pastel, you will be able to fit all these colors in a relatively small box.

- yellow / blue / reddish / grayish greens
- blue / reddish / grayish violets
- reddish / greenish browns
- reddish / yellowish oranges
- warm / cool blues
- warm / cool yellows and beiges
- warm / cool grays and whites

Pastel container

You can buy a box made especially for storing pastels, such as the backpacker size of Heilman box (from www.HeilmanDesigns.com). Or, you can make your own box with foam or felt lining to protect the pastels from breaking or moving around. I learned that it is best to carry the pastels box in your carry-on bag if you are flying, because sticks of pastels resemble ammunition when seen in the X-ray machine therefore the box might be opened to be inspected, and you'd want to make sure it is re-closed properly.

Tripod/folding table/Easel shelf – to set the pastel box on

Depending on your setup, one of these would work to set your pastel container on. For example: Heilman box can be fastened to a tripod, and a Sun-Eden easel may come with a shelf for the pastel box.

Corn meal – to keep the pastels clean

Bring it in an airtight container such as tupperware.

Paper

The following papers are recommended: Sennelier La Carte Pastel Card (for its variety of colors), Wallis Pastel Sanded Paper (for its fine tooth) and Ampersand Pastelboard (for its durability). Paper in mid-tone colors, such as sand or grey - providing a neutral value, is easier to start with. Bring smaller size paper, such as: 8x10 or 9x12, so that you could work quickly under the ever changing light.

Board(s) - to support the paper when set on the easel

The board should be lightweight and slightly bigger than the paper you will use, such as foam cord or masonite board. If you are using Ampersand Pastelboards, you will not need this since it has the board backing already.

Tape – to attach the paper to the board

Preferably use the acid-free tape since it is touching the surface of the paper the painting is on. Masking tape will do if it will not be right next to the boarder of your painting.

Easel

Bring an easel that's as lightweight and compact as possible. Working with a board held on your lap is OK but may not be comfortable. Sun-Eden has a couple of lightweight easels for pastel artists. If you have a Heilman pastel box with the easel attachment, you may not even need a separate easel.

Tracing paper (pad) – to protect the paintings from being scratched or smudged

If you bring multiple boards, you can tape a single sheet of tracing paper over the painting on each board. If you have only one board, you can remove the painting from the board and insert it into the tracing paper pad and secure it with some tapes. To make sure the painting is totally covered the tracing paper (pad) should be a little larger than the paper size, for example 11x14 tracing paper for 9x12 painting papers and 9x12 for 8x10.

Sunhat

Viewfinder

It can be an empty slide mount, a mat board with an opening, two L-shape boards clipped together to adjust the size, or purchasing a viewfinder, such as by Picture Perfect. It is a good idea to have the opening proportional to the size of paper you will use, so that what you see reflects what you will paint.

Camera

Optional – it can be used as a viewfinder too, and it is good to keep references for finishing the paintings later.

Small sketchbook and pencils

Optional

Disposable gloves – rubber or vinyl

Optional

Folding chair or stool

Optional

Umbrella

Optional - black, grey or white is the best. It's usually easy to find a shady spot if you find it too bulky to bring one.

Moist wipes - for cleanup

Optional

Sunblock and insect spray

Optional