

Studio Italia 2025

"Your Art, Yourself: Form and Content"

June 10-19 & October 1-10



icscis / Walk the Arts

icscis stands for

International Center for Synthesis Centre International pour la Synthèse

"Synthesis" is the putting together of parts or elements so as to form a whole, a unifying whole; the whole as all aspects of one's being, its totality. Our logo is the hand made circle, symbol of that whole, of the union of art and being and of the evolution of society through arts and culture. Its orange color represents the enthusiasm, creativity, and determination required in the search of one's completeness.

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About our workshops

Walk the Arts (icscis inc.) is an art school without walls, as its studios are located throughout the world. We offer quality painting workshops and art history tours in Europe, North America, South America and Africa. Our most popular destinations are Italy, France, Spain and Colombia.

All our workshops are given by professional artists and art historians and are open to:

- 1) the very beginners wishing to explore their creative process;
- 2) artists of all levels in the search of new visions, new challenges, in brief, a new commitment toward painting;
- 3) artists who simply want to carry on with their projects without supervision;
- 4) the "symbolic others" who wish to accompany their partners and enjoy the Italian culture, the touring and the regional cuisine.

At Walk the Arts we aim to help our participants discover their own creative path and to paint in a personal way. For this reason, all our workshops include stimulating "flash art history|theory lectures". Other highlights include positive group critiques, cultural outings, plenty of plein-air painting in nearby beautiful villages and discussions around our very popular gourmet meals. Also, groups of eight participants only allow us to offer personalized instruction and intimate environment that fosters creativity and fun.

The Location

Since 1997 Studio Italia is offered in the most beautiful area of Tuscany. We are located near Cortona and Lucignano. We stay in a 19th century typical country Tuscan house with modern amenities. Our house has several bedrooms (each one with a private bathroom), a living room, a kitchen, a dining room, and a private swimming pool. Meals provided at the lodge are a reflection of the Italian cuisine, one of the finest in the world. Bells will call you in the morning to paint, or to simply wander among the vines to meditate upon your work. Needless to say, this environment will contribute to the re-evaluation of your pictorial themes and to the renewal of your palette. The view of the hilltop medieval villages such as Pienza (The English Patient), Castelmuzio, or Petrolio will undoubtedly leave you mesmerized.



"We feel that we have no right to show our students how to paint like us, but to "guide them" in their personal quest for self-expression and meaning may it be figurative or abstract" (Walk the Arts)

"We facilitate the creative process by offering our students a unique environment where they feel the "encounter"... where one's mind, body, spirit is so engaged in the act of creating that one completely forgets time and space and is transported to another realm. Only in that dimension you can hear your own being, your own ideas; resulting in a truly personal work of art. No words can explain the mystery of this "encounter" (Walk the Arts)

About Studio Italia

A real workshop; 9 full days entirely devoted to art in the medium of your choice (oils, acrylics or watercolors). Mornings are dedicated to instruction at the lodge, afternoons to lighter coaching in a nearby medieval village (Cortona, Montepulciano, Pienza, etc.) and evenings to discussions on various topics around gourmet meals and wine. Our participants are free to start with full paintings or to work on sketches and then proceed to more accomplished works. We spend one day in Florence visiting the Uffizi Museum and other important art sites. Lectures for all, instruction for most, personal discussions for those who wish are the most important foundations of our workshop.



Thanks to our unique philosophy in trusting the creative process, we certainly know that Lorraine, Enzo, Jocelyne and Ted will produce "great" little transportable paintings. Art is certainly not done by only a talented few, but by everyone who willingly accepts that she or he could also reach the level of the great masters... "
(from our blog <http://walkthearts.wordpress.com>)



The price

Price of Studio Italia 2025 is CAD \$4175 (around US\$ 3050 at the current exchange rate). Price includes: painting instruction and art history/art theory lectures (minimum of 6 hours per day), 9 night accommodation in single or double rooms (we have limited single rooms at no extra cost offered on a first come, first served basis), all breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 gourmet dinners including great wines and after-dinner drinks, transportation from and to Arezzo train station (our meeting point), transportation to all cities and painting sites on schedule (Cortona, Montepulciano, Lucignano, Pienza, etc.), train ticket to Florence and a guided tour to the Uffizi Museum. Before we leave, you will receive our pre-departure newsletter with all the details about the workshop. Also, we will send you an expectations in order to personalize our teaching.

Demonstration or no demonstration!

"In a few days, I will be the painting workshop instructor for Studio Italia, our June art workshop in Tuscany, and I am really looking forward to it. I certainly know that a few students will ask me, "can you do a demonstration?" Well... doing a demonstration can be very dangerous for the development of the potential artist, since it may induce an imitative behaviour which will prevent the other to find her/his own way of expression. We certainly all know that art is extremely personal, art being the reflection of the individual's essence. Who am I to teach Lorraine or Enzo how to draw a cypress tree? Who am I to teach Jocelyne or Ted how to paint a wheat field?"

Of course, during our painting workshop in Italy and through short demonstrations, I will underline the principles of proper colour use (i.e. cool vs. warm), enunciate the basic laws of perspective (aerial or linear), make sure that the proportions of the human body are respected, revise the understanding of the color wheel... but your tree is "your" tree. It belongs to you only. Cézanne's tree is Cézanne's; Kandinsky's architecture belongs only to Kandinsky, Monet's fields are Monet's; and the same applies to Gauguin, to Renoir, to Matisse, all painters who revolutionized the landscape.



"Art as religion is just a matter of faith"
Walk the Arts



A Proposed Schedule

Please note that this schedule, which is subject to weather is flexible and addressed to the novice. Certainly, the advanced painter does not need to follow this "orario". Mornings and afternoons are usually dedicated to theory and painting, and evening to movies, and/or serious art/life discussions; art IS life.

Short demonstrations, individual sketchbook journaling and coaching on color, values, composition and brushwork are part of our daily instruction.

Day	Mornings (9:00 a.m. to 12:00)	Afternoons (14:30 to 17:30)	Evenings (before, during or after dinner) see*	✓
1		a) Painting at leisure; getting to know you. b) Loosening-up exercises.	Lecture	
2	Basic Landscape Perspective (in studio and outside) bring sketch pad for journaling!	Applying the drawing knowledge on the landscape at our lodge (with touch ups of colours) 15 drawings please!		
3	Color theory and painting around our lodge.	Applying the complementary concept on the landscape in the Val d'Orcia, around Pienza.		
4	Painting around our lodge	Painting in Montepulciano	Lecture	
5	Painting at leisure at our lodge (little guidance from your instructor).	(14:30 to 17:30) Painting at our lodge		
6	Painting in Lucignano	Painting at our lodge	Lecture	
7	Painting at our lodge	Painting in Cortona.	Lecture	
8	Day trip to Florence	Florence The Uffizi Museum		
9	Painting at leisure at our lodge	FINAL-CRIT and packing.	Farewell Diner	
10	End of Studio Italia- Departure to Arezzo (8h00)	Rome or Florence on your own		

* This schedule covers around 39 hours of painting instruction/coaching, around 5 hours of art history and theory. Topics to be covered: "Introduction to Mediology" • "Understanding Contemporary Art" • "The Trecento" • "The Renaissance" • "Form and Content" (the *Della Pittura* by Alberti) • or other subject

Your Instructor; Prof. Yves M. Larocque

With a bachelors' degree in Visual Arts, and in Theory and History of Art from the University of Ottawa, a Master's degree in History of Art from the Université de Montréal, a Diplôme d'Études Approfondies and a Ph. D. in Art History and Archaeology from the Sorbonne (Université de Paris 1), Yves Larocque is today Walk the Arts director and consultant in the fields of creativity and visual arts. Yves has been teaching painting and art history for more than 25 years in Canada, Italy and France. His paintings have appeared in several group exhibitions, most importantly *Arteder* at the Muestra d'Arto Grafica of Bilbao in Spain where he represented Canada. TVOntario also produced a short program on his works. His works have been shown in North America, South America and Europe and can be found in private collections.

Testimonials

I attended the Studio Italia Workshop, and it exceeded my expectations. Our setting and painting locations were once-in-a-lifetime moments. Yves is a dramatic professor with over-the-top enthusiasm about Art and Life...Monica runs the show with Grace and Empathy. My artwork grew by leaps and bounds during the workshop, though I did experience some Doubt!... Thank you with all my heart. (P. Adams, RI, U.S., Studio Italia 2023)

Studio Italia is a jewel in the crown of art workshops. The program is so well designed to balance painting, instruction, advice, critique and museum tours by day with long, warm social evenings of conversation. Mónica's meals were exceptional and Yves provided painting instruction, approaching each painter at their level and raised the bar on us all. (K. Gross, San Francisco, U.S., Studio Italia 2022, 2018 & 2016)

I would recommend this well-run workshop to all levels - to all artists! I learned so much about who I am as an artist and fell deeper in love with the beauty of Italian art, food, wine, and the landscape. Thank you. You have given me an experience I will always treasure. (O. Moorehead, Los Angeles, USA, Studio Italia 2018)