

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
*of*  
Painting, Drawing and Sculpture  
*in*  
*Umbria, Italy*



*School*  
*Artist's Residency*  
*CE - Continuing Education*

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International School of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture  
06057 Montecastello di Vibio PG Perugia ITALY  
Tel. / Fax +39 075 8780072 US Voicemail / Fax (toll-free) (866) 449-3604  
[www.giotto.us](http://www.giotto.us)  
*Marc Servin, Director*

## *The International School*

The International School of Painting, Drawing, and Sculpture in Umbria, Italy offers intensive studio programs for developing painters and sculptors from around the world. Distinguished artists teach and critique, and visiting artists and scholars lecture. Students work full-time in their studios and classes, and take weekly trips to study and draw from the great art of Italy. Students, residents and faculty live and work in Montecastello di Vibio, a hill town in Umbria, one of Italy's most beautiful regions.

The School is one of a very few of its kind: a school of modern art with in-depth training in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Enrollment is limited to about twenty-five students per session, with a 5:1 student/teacher ratio. This positive and intimate environment offers students substantial contact, both formal and informal, with their faculty mentors.

Thanks to our dynamic faculty, students come from all over the world. International School artists are of diverse ages and backgrounds: they include undergraduate and graduate art students from premier art schools, artists considering an MFA program, postgraduates, art professors, and working artists. The International School is an ideal environment in which developing artists can completely devote themselves to working and learning, building to a high level of productivity, and for many, a breakthrough.



## *Our Location in Umbria*

Overlooking the lush Tiber River valley, Montecastello di Vibio is a hill town in central Italy, in the province of Perugia, halfway between Rome and Florence. A beautifully preserved medieval borgo, Montecastello looks much like it did 500 years ago. A fortress wall surrounds the tiny heart-shaped town; vast panoramas can be seen in every direction, and a tranquil little park sits at one edge. This delightful village is our campus, and a complex of historic buildings houses the School's facilities.

Preserving over 2,000 years of history, the cities and hill towns of Umbria and nearby Tuscany are landmarks of European culture. Many were built over four eras—Etruscan, Roman, Medieval and Renaissance. The surrounding landscape is patterned with vineyards, olive groves and sunflower fields, and etched with rows of cypresses and umbrella pines.

In this environment, you will paint and sculpt under the same light that spawned the Western world's greatest art. Here is the architecture and countryside that inspired Renaissance artists and later masters like Poussin, Ingres and Corot. One can see why the region still attracts artists from all over the world.

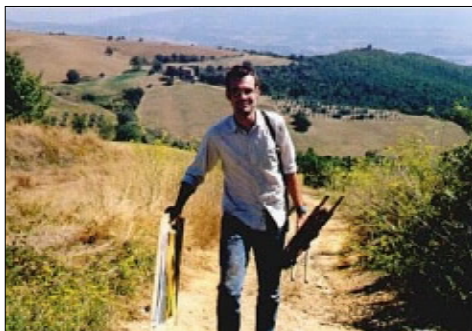
## *The Program*

The International School curriculum centers on intensive daily studio work, with instruction and critiques by internationally renowned artists, and weekly trips to Italy's cities of art.

Our living and working situation in North Central Italy is ideal for an artist. It offers breathtaking surroundings, marvelous light, quiet, privacy, wonderful food, and of course, Italy's rich cultural heritage.



In the School's supportive yet rigorous studio environment, students can focus and concentrate on their work, uninterrupted by the demands of daily life back home. Students can work full-time in the classroom and in their studios, and make dramatic progress. Those who stay for several consecutive sessions benefit tremendously. For many artists, the International School is more than a summer program—it is their continuing professional education.



## *The School*

*For undergraduate and graduate art students, serious high school students, and artists wishing to work independently in a stimulating school environment. CE students and Residents may also work independently in the School programs.*

Students work full time in well-lit studios, as well as participate in offered classes and work from the landscape if they wish. Experienced models are available as needed. Faculty teach in offered classes as well as meeting individually with students. Each student is assigned a private or semi-private studio to study, and develop their own personal work. Studios are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Art materials can be found locally in close proximity to the school.

In the evenings, visiting artists and faculty give slide lectures on their work, lead open discussions and readings, as well as give preparatory talks for art study trips. Students participate in the slide talks, and group and final critiques.

The School emphasizes the importance of drawing as the foundation for the development of one's individual work. Students may draw from the model or in the landscape in three-hour classes, four afternoons a week, and in the mornings paint in the landscape or from the model in four-hour classes. On non-teaching days, students are strongly encouraged to work independently. Students have 24-hour access to their studios for independent studio practice, in a safe and work-conducive environment at the school. Or they may paint outdoors in the beautiful Italian light. Instructors teach at least twice a week and are accessible for individual consultations and critiques.

Fridays are trip days to Italy's cities of art, to study and draw from the great art of the past. Students may use the International School's extensive art library, and video collection. There is 24-hour access to a telephone, and computers with DSL Internet access.

Because of the close and communal nature of the school, students and faculty have constant interaction during meals, slide talks, trips, as well as in the open air piazzas in the town, where students, faculty and townspeople congregate. There are frequent slide talks and lectures in the evenings, as well as group critiques with faculty members. A final group critique with faculty and the students, and a final exhibition in the school's gallery, which will be attended by local artists and people from the surrounding area, will formally conclude the program.



## *Artist's Residency*

*For artists who wish to work independently in a community of artists.*

The Residency program provides the ideal combination of seclusion and community in a setting of breathtaking beauty. Artists can work intensively and independently for three or more weeks in a supportive, inspiring environment. A distinguished visiting artist or member of the School faculty joins us as Senior Artist in Residence and studio critic, and a model poses for open drawing sessions. Visiting artists critique and lecturers provide preparatory talks for the weekly trips to Italy's cities of art, which inspire and inform the work in the studio. The Residency Program also enables students to continue to work and progress independently. During non-working hours, residents have access to the school's art library, telephone, computer with Internet access, and video collection. Residents enjoy meals together in the dining room and develop a close sense of community. Residents' rooms are single-occupancy and their studios are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Independent Residencies may also be taken during the School programs.

## *CE (Continuing Education)*

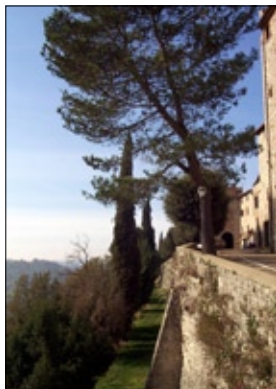
CE (Continuing Education) is designed for adults with some background in art who want to create more time in their lives to paint and draw, or to deepen their engagement. This program offers shorter term instructional sessions, and is appropriate for people whose involvement with art was interrupted or limited by career or family demands, but who are eager to begin to study and practice again with our outstanding faculty. Advanced students and professional artists are also welcome in the CE Program.

CE students explore and enrich their interest in art, working and living in the heart of Italy, surrounded by a landscape of unparalleled beauty, in close proximity to great masterpieces of art and architecture. The emphasis is on work in the landscape and the studio, with classes in drawing and painting, and weekly trips to Italy's cities of art. After-dinner talks by our eminent lecturers and visiting artists enhance the program. The CE fee includes a single room.

## *Accommodations and Workspace*

Students and residents share modest apartments, all a short walk from the School buildings. Rooms are single and double-occupancy. The main school building, a former convent, has nine single rooms with a view of the Tiber River valley. Residents, and CE students stay in single-occupancy rooms.

The School provides housecleaning services and clean sheets and towels weekly. Facilities in Montecastello are simple and involve stairs and hills, and are not suitable for people with special needs.



Classrooms and studios are in several great stone palazzi in the village of Montecastello. Each student is assigned a private or semi-private studio to study, and develop their own personal work. Students can work independently with 24-hour access to their studios, in a safe and work-conducive environment. Students and residents may use the International School's extensive art library, and video collection. There is 24-hour access to a telephone, and computers with DSL Internet access. Throughout the ancient town and out in the landscape are wonderful motifs and views to paint.

## *Meals*

The program fee includes three delicious Umbrian meals each day, excluding trip days. Students, residents and faculty enjoy meals together, enabling students to have close contact with their art mentors. Meals are prepared in a professional kitchen. Meals are simple and wholesome, with fresh produce from nearby farms, and prepared with care by local cooks. A typical lunch includes pasta, a meat dish, two vegetables and a legume, salad, fresh bread, mineral water, fruit and coffee. We serve a substantial continental style breakfast to prepare us for our work in the studio. As is traditional in Italian cuisine, dinner is lighter and satisfying, with a hot main course and plenty of vegetables and fruit, with soups and pasta. Evening meals are on the school's rooftop terrace, overlooking the magnificent panorama of the Tiber River valley.

## *Admissions and Fees*

Candidates should submit the completed application form, a non-refundable application fee of US\$ 40 (or 30 Euro), names of two people that we may contact who know your character and your work (preferably current or former teachers for School applicants), and 12 slides, photos, or a CD of your recent work. School applicants should include at least four slides of drawings; CE applicants may include an essay in place of slides, although slides are preferable. There are no application deadlines, but the program is small and space is limited; we recommend that you apply early.



Artist's Residency and CE session fees include studio space, a single room, three meals a day, group trips, and ground transportation from and to Fiumicino airport in Rome on the first and last day of each session. Residents and CE students may apply for less than a full session.

School session fees include tuition, studio space, room, three meals a day, group trips, and ground transportation from and to Rome on the first and last day of each session. The additional charge for a single room, when available, is 100 Euro per week. The same fees apply for Independent Residencies taken during the School sessions in the summer. Residents may take advantage of classes as they choose, and request faculty critiques. All fees must be received no later than one month before the session begins. Fees are calculated in Euros and include 20% IVA (value-added tax). Payments may be made by check, wire transfer, or credit card; we accept PayPal, Google Checkout, and Amazon Payments. Please see our web site at [www.giotto.us/fees.html](http://www.giotto.us/fees.html) for more information including deposits, withdrawal schedule, and refund policy.

## *Which program is right for me?*

While we have tried to make clear the differences between the programs, in practice we see that people move freely between them. If you are willing to work and are open to new experiences you will find any and all of our programs worthwhile. The testimonials on our web site will attest: our goal is to make everyone's experience in Italy at the school as rich and productive as possible.

## *Trips*

The ongoing studio work is interspersed with weekly day-trips to study Italy's millennia-old heritage of art, from ancient to contemporary, engaging artists in a dialogue with the masterworks of the past and present. We travel by chartered bus to Rome, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Perugia, Sansepolcro, and Arezzo. A faculty member or visiting art historian gives preparatory lectures to enrich and enliven our trips. Students and faculty are then free to go independently or in groups to visit museums and churches, or anything they wish to see. The Student Handbook, sent to each student, contains a guide for our trips, as well as information on travel, what to pack, local resources, and details about living and working at the school. Other towns of artistic and cultural interest that are less than an hour away include Todi, Deruta, Orvieto, Spello, and Spoleto. Students may wish to arrive in Rome a few days early to take advantage of the museums there and see the city before beginning the program.

## *For Teachers and Groups*

*If you are looking for a wonderful place for your art study trip, workshop or painting group, we would like to welcome you. Montecastello is a safe and friendly town, very favorable to painting. The village is not a tourist town. It has hosted the International School for the last 20 years, and the people in the community are very supportive of painters and students. The time spent working at the school in Italy has always been extremely productive and conducive for breakthroughs, for students and faculty alike. Our warm and supportive infrastructure in Italy is perfect for small groups, painting holidays, workshops and classes. Please call us or write for more information and quotes. With our expertise, and gorgeous location, you can be sure your group will have the experience of a lifetime.*



**D**esign, which by another name is called drawing, is the fount and body of painting and sculpture and architecture and of every other kind of art, and the root of all sciences. Let whoever may have attained to so much as to have the power of drawing know that he holds a great treasure; because great, very great is the power of design and drawing.  
– Michelangelo