



# The Florence Academy of Art Courses Summer 2020

[www.artsatstowe.co.uk](http://www.artsatstowe.co.uk)

Stowe  
arts

# The Classical Approach: Portrait Painting with Toby Wright

The Florence Academy comes to Stowe, offering a unique opportunity to explore the beauty of nature under the tutelage of the Academy's Ambassador, Toby Wright.

The courses are designed for those who are seeking to develop a traditional classical approach to drawing, painting, and working from nature. These principles are at the core of both the work and the instruction of master tutor, Toby Wright. Having studied at the Florence Academy, Toby was a principal instructor in the Advanced Painting

programme until 2010. His paintings can be found in galleries and private collections across Europe and America. Here is the opportunity to study for ten days with The Florence Academy.

The Academy has three full time programmes. Florence, Italy, with 100 students enrolled in drawing, painting and sculpture courses, and Mölndal, Sweden, and Jersey City, NJ (USA) where 26 students attend drawing and painting courses.

The classes at Stowe are designed for artists who are unable to enrol on full time courses but are serious about improving their skills and want to obtain

a high level of training in a short period of time. Instruction is in the form of individual critiques so each student receives guidance at his or her level of expertise. Beginning, intermediate and advanced levels are therefore welcome, as well as professional painters who are seeking to improve upon an already substantial skill base.



“All my paintings are from life. The study of nature is essential, and it is through the humble observation of it that one discovers its truth and, subsequently, its beauty.”

Toby Wright  
[www.tobywrightfineart.com](http://www.tobywrightfineart.com)

This year sees two new courses; Alla Prima and Sculpture alongside Portrait and Landscape. Toby Wright is delighted to expand his portrait programme with Alla Prima and we are pleased to welcome Florence Academy tutor Valentina Zlatarova with her portrait sculpture masterclass.

In Alla Prima, students will work on 5 different portraits over 5 days. This workshop addresses drawing, tone and colour as applied to this swift method of painting. We are also offering the classical intensive five day portrait course using the Atelier method, with an intensive study of the portrait in oil. This will require attention to anatomy, shape design and light.



Landscape Painting en Plein Air can be studied in a five or ten day structure where students will be guided through the practical concepts and artistic process of landscape art with returning Florence Academy tutor Amy Florence. Students can select a five day course in

Portrait, Alla Prima and Landscape or can combine to create a ten day course.

Florence Academy tutor Valentina Zlatarova, will be introducing our sculpture course in the beautifully appointed sculpture studio in The Watson School of Art. Here students

will focus on the step by step process of building a portrait in clay from life. Instruction is by individual critique, so students will receive guidance at their individual level of expertise.

# Amy Florence



Amy Florence, born in London in 1989 works predominantly in the medium of oil painting. Amy trained at the Chelsea College of Arts London in 2007 before moving to Florence in 2008 to train at a private Atelier, that teaches a technique which stems from the early Renaissance. She began teaching at the Atelier in her second year remaining there until 2013.

In April 2014 Amy exhibited at the Mall Galleries with the Royal Portrait Society in London and was invited to exhibit a solo show at the Palazzo Tornabuoni in Florence in November 2014, and a solo show at The Modern Pantry London in November 2015.

She now has a private studio in the historic centre of Florence where she works exclusively from life under natural light.

“Nature is above all, creative. I have a love for the natural world and I am a keen anthropologist, bird watcher and naturalist. The beauty of the world around me is my inspiration and I want to capture and describe it to others through my painting. I hope that this fascination is something that will be conveyed through my paintings. My intention is to show this to others in a hope that they will stop and look around them, and see beyond themselves, towards something that is not only mesmeric and contemplative, but also profoundly beautiful.”



# Valentina Zlatarova

Valentina Zlatarova was born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. After expressing her interest in art from an early age, Valentina began her formal artistic education at the age of 13 at the Tzanko Lavrenov art school in Plovdiv. After her graduation in 2004, she grew interested in figurative sculpture and entered the Florence Academy of Art, where she studied drawing, painting and sculpture, and where she later became a teacher in the drawing program. In 2007, Valentina established herself as a professional sculptor in London, and won the Founders' Sculpture Prize and was twice winner of the Tiranti Prize for sculptural portraiture. Valentina also worked as a principal instructor of drawing and sculpture at the London Atelier of Representational Art and Barcelona Academy of Art. Valentina's work is regularly exhibited in public and in private collections around the world.



MONDAY 27 - FRIDAY 31 JULY 2020  
OR MONDAY 10 - FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2020

# The Classical Approach: Portrait Painting with Toby Wright

## Five day course

To attempt the psychological engagement that many admirable portraits achieve, one must first develop good accuracy in drawing, and learn about anatomy and construction in relation to shadow and light shapes.

This portrait course is a great way to develop confidence in this challenging subject. From a block-in drawing, to transferring to canvas and pursuing in paint with a limited palette, your tutor will lead you through every step, with

demonstrations to illustrate the process and discussions about several portraits by old masters. Each portrait painting will be of one model, in the same pose, for the duration of the course.

Tutor: Toby Wright  
Course Day: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Cost:  
5 days: £900 (including VAT)  
The combined cost for 5 days of Portrait and 5 days of Landscape is £ 1575.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided each day.



*Calm before the storm*, by Toby Wright



MONDAY 3 - FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2020

# Painting a Portrait Alla Prima with Toby Wright

Five day course

Alla Prima means “at first attempt” in Italian, so the alla prima method of painting involves direct paint application, without too much blending, and favours the display of brushstrokes. This workshop addresses drawing, tone and colour as applied to this swift method of painting.

Students will work on 5 different portraits over 5 days. The alla prima approach allows them to paint one portrait a day. Each day will present students with a new pose and model, to enable a variety of portraits. The size of each portrait will be smaller than life size, to allow a faster covering of the painted surface (approx. 20x30cm/ 8”x12”).

FAA graduate and experienced instructor, Toby Wright, will begin with an in-depth explanation of this portrait painting method. He will demonstrate his method with a model, presenting the approach that will follow in the course. He will cover the technicalities of colour mixing, and explain the tools being used throughout the week.

Toby says, “the process gets easier with every sketch, as the students become accustomed to the rhythm.” Toby will paint alongside everyone, to allow a continuous reference for students to follow, with commentary and references to the old masters.

This course is designed not only develop a body of work. It is also to learn the crucial principles, to then apply to all manner of subjects after the course, deeply enriching one’s personal work. Instruction is on an individual basis, so students of all levels are welcome.

Tutor: Toby Wright  
Course Day: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Cost: £950 (including VAT)  
The combined cost for 5 days of Alla Prima and 5 days of Landscape is £1625 (including VAT)

Lunch and refreshments will be provided each day.



MONDAY 27 - FRIDAY 31 JULY 2020  
MONDAY 3 - FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2020

# The Classical Approach: Landscape painting en Plein Air with Amy Florence

Five or ten day course

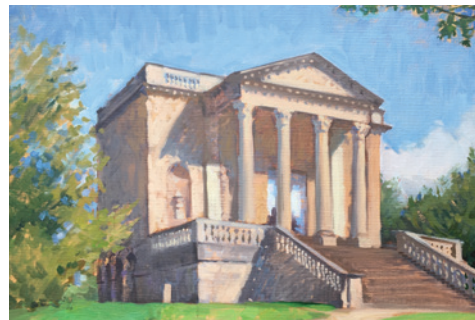
For this five day course, students spend morning and afternoon sessions studying the art of landscape painting, as well as how to include architectural elements in their compositions. Demonstrations will help students learn how to start using the concepts of perspective to help convey the structure of buildings. Students can choose between the exploration of landscape painting and the play of light on architecture, or they can fuse the two disciplines.

Students will work on one painting in the morning and one in the afternoon, due to the shifting light. These can be one day studies or continued over several days.

Tutor: Amy Florence  
Course Day: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Cost:  
5 days: £800 (including VAT)  
10 days: £1475 (including VAT)  
The combined cost for 5 days of Portrait and 5 days of Landscape is £ 1575.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided each day.



Queens Temple by Amy Florence





MONDAY 10 - FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2020

# The Classical Approach : Sculpture with Valentina Zlatarova

Five day course

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This five day course focuses on the step by step process of building a portrait in clay from life. Students will gain an understanding of how to make meaningful observations from the model and take accurate measurements using important anatomical landmarks. Towards the end of the course the students will be encouraged to address the character/likeness of the sitter.

The course consists of two modules. A practical element; where students will be working from the model with guidance from the teacher and a theoretical part which consists of several twenty minute lectures. The lectures will include subjects around anatomy, history of art, composition and portraiture.

Tutor: Valentina Zlatarova  
Course Day: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Cost : £800 (including VAT)  
Lunch and refreshments will be provided each day.



# Accommodation

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Accommodation is available within the grounds of Stowe and includes breakfast and evening meal. We would advise early booking as there are limited places. We can also provide a

list of local accommodation within four miles of Stowe. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

# Booking

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To book your place please phone 01280 818012 or email [thearts@stowe.co.uk](mailto:thearts@stowe.co.uk)



*Stowe pond, grey day*, by Toby Wright