

Kelly Medford

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Profile

I am an American figurative artist living and working in Italy since 2004, where I work as a full-time artist out on the streets painting and sketching the urban landscape. Working both on commission and on personal independent projects focused on capturing individual neighborhoods of Rome, my work is about documenting an ever-changing landscape as well as keeping the tradition of documenting Rome through painting, drawing, and sketching alive. Based on the observation that the city was missing the opportunity to provide visitors, tourists, and locals alike with the chance to document the city through art, I started Sketching Rome Tours as a simple, fun and straightforward way to offer simple techniques to keep a sketchbook journal of the city in a short half day course. This has turned into a passion and has led to many wonderful collaborations and lasting relationships with people all over the globe.

Key Skills

I have a comprehensive knowledge of traditional fine art techniques including drawing, rendering, portrait and still life painting in watercolour and oils, with an in depth understanding of landscape painting techniques, composition, paint application, color mixing and principles of perspective with a focus on architecture.

I have extensive experience in painting and sketching outdoors in various mediums and how to deal with simple set ups and best equipment for plein air situations. My teaching style is energetic, enthusiastic, and encouraging with an emphasis on patience and listening skills, teaching to the level appropriate to each individual but developing didactic methods useful to all levels and abilities. Communication and a caring approach are important to me, as are tactfulness, articulation, and integrity.

Languages English and Italian (C1)

Teaching History

2012-present Founder of Sketching Rome Tours Rome, Italy

Founded, currently run and teach sketchbook journaling to tourists, travelers, artists, students, architects and complete novices.

I personally developed a 3 hour curriculum in sketching with pen, pencil and watercolor to give sufficient skills in capturing a place through sketching.

- Teach various techniques in line, mass, blind contour and shading in pencil

- How to approach pen work
- Basic use of watercolor to give life to sketches
- How to choose what to sketch and how to frame it

2019- 2016 School of Visual Arts Rome Program Rome, Italy

I was 1 of 2 studio professors for the SVA Rome program and also served as the director temporarily in 2018

- Learn to make and keep a sketchbook as a foundation for investigation and research
- Weekly lectures on composition, foundations of light in
- Facilitated 1-on-1 weekly critiques as well as 3 semester group critiques
- Led figure drawing sessions with a live model
- Oversaw and personally guided 8-10 students in their individual projects ranging from photography, to installation, painting, and film
- Led studio visits to current working artists in Rome
- Coordinated and accompanied students on 3-day trip to Milan to explore current themes in Italian contemporary and 20th century art
- Coordinated and mounted final exhibition in a local gallery with the public in attendance

2019 California Baptist University School of Architecture Rome, Italy Summer Program

Professor Keelan Kaiser hired me to teach the summer architecture students on their study abroad in Italy the basics of working in pen and watercolor for on location sketching in Rome.

- Taught quick pen drawing of more complicated forms in architecture
- How to analyze and synthesize light and shadow in architecture
- Taught techniques in watercolor including color mixing, water-pigment ratios and control, creating atmospheric perspective, learning to sketch quickly with watercolors, basic color theory of warm and cool colors, mixing shadows, direct and indirect painting.

2017 Pantheon Institute Rome, Italy

Taught an independent study watercolor course to 3rd year architecture students who specifically requested wanting to learn this skill

- Taught foundations of watercolor from water-pigment ratio, controlling values in watercolor, 4 basic strokes and controlling washes, direct and indirect painting
- Color theory and understanding glazes and their color interactions
- Mixing grays and their role in color
- Creating atmospheric perspective
- Working with natural elements in the cityscape (water, trees, etc)
- Composition and focal point
- Oversight of final watercolor projects and portfolio

2018, 2017 International Urban Sketchers Workshop, Volterra, Italy

In this 2-year series of workshop sponsored by the international Urban Sketchers, I co-taught the class with a focus on color theory and light

- Taught the notan principle of balancing light and shadow

- Understanding the use of color and mixing grays including atmospheric perspective in color
- Controlling pigment-water ratio to correctly paint value scales in architecture and the landscape

2017 International Urban Sketchers Workshop Rome, Italy

Together with the international Urban Sketchers and 9 other local artists, I offered a workshop on painting light and shadow in watercolor in an ongoing series of 10 workshops sponsored by the International Urban Sketchers

- Taught control of water-pigment ratios to be able to accurately control values in light and shadow
- Basic color theory
- Direct and indirect painting of shadows
- How to capture a scene quickly on location in watercolor

2015 Napoli Urban Sketchers Workshop at Castello Aragonese, Ischia

In collaboration with the Mattera family of Castello Aragonese, Simona Capecci and Caroline Peyron we led a 5 day urban sketching workshop based on following in the footsteps of The Grand Tour of Ischia and the castle in particular. With special permission from the Mattera family, we were granted complete access to the castle grounds and gardens.

My portion of the workshop included teaching sketching in oils on location

- How to setup and use simple materials for plein air oil sketching
- Basic 3 value system use with a double primary palette
- Warm and cool color mixing
- Massing in with oils to create depth, interest and a sense of light
- Principles of good composition

2012-2014 High Point University School of Art and Design

Worked together with chair of the Art Department Scott Raynor in creating a 3 day curriculum for teaching urban sketching to students traveling on The Grand Tour during their stay in Rome

- Taught and demonstrated simple drawing techniques in line versus mass
- What to look for and how to compose a sketch
- Led group critiques

Education

Antioch College 1995-1998 studies with a focus in drawing, painting and printmaking

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga 2000-2003 studied painting, drawing and printmaking

Florence Academy of Art 2005 completed the 1 year classical figurative drawing program

Atelier Harp, Florence Italy 2006-2007 studied still life painting

Other Experience

2010-present active member of the international Urban Sketchers and organizer of Rome's chapter
2019 invited to deliver a lecture entitled "Transcending the Italian Postcard" on didactic methods for teaching Italian landscape painting for Symposium of American Artists in Italy at University of Perugia

2016 course with landscape painter Larry Moore on developing new color methods in plein air painting

2014 course with architect Stephanie Bower on rendering Italian architecture

GLCA Midwest Art Scholarship Award 1997 apprentice to painters Shawn Dulaney, Rachel Friedberg, Ginger Levant and Jane Dickson in New York City

www.kellymedford.com

www.sketchingrometours.com

References Upon Request