

“Interpreting Portraits: An Artistic Process”

An Online Watercolor Workshop with Artist, Lorena Massa

March 24, 25, & 27, 2025

The instructor in this workshop is international artist, Lorena Massa. In this workshop Lorena will present her approach to interpreting portraits. Her intent is to show her artistic process. She will explain how she chooses her subject, why she uses certain colors, and the characteristics of facial features. Seeing these features correctly would result in a good portrait.



The workshop will follow these stages:

- Drawing: Participants will receive the reference image some days before, to independently prepare the drawing prior to the workshop.
- Color testing: Lorena will explain how to create accurate skin tones (the colors of complexion) with a fresh appearance. We will explore main color mixes and the characteristics that the colors must have to achieve this, e.g., transparent and opaque, which colors to avoid.
- The Face: We will try to obtain soft layers by painting on wet paper. We will learn to see shadows and paint them in the right places to arrive at a three-dimensional face.
- Study of facial features: Eyes, nose, mouth—we will learn some useful tips to make these features more expressive and natural, as well as what common mistakes to avoid.
- Painting hair: Lorena will show us how to paint thin strands of hair that are soft and natural.
- Painting the background: This can be challenging in a portrait painting. Lorena will help us evaluate which colors can contribute to the expressive force of the painting and create a unity between the subject and the background.
- Final analysis and last touches: We will assess the portrait and make final adjustments to assure that there is harmony in the composition

Workshop Artist Instructor: Lorena Massa



Lorena Massa, from Italy, has always loved drawing and painting since she was a child. This led her to pursue studies in the arts. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Cuneo, Italy, receiving degrees in Restoration and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in 2005 and, later, in Painting in 2009. Along her artistic journey, she realized that watercolor was the medium she felt most connected to, and she was especially drawn to portraiture.

In 2014, Lorena proudly became a member of the prestigious Italian Watercolor Association (Associazione Italiana Acquerelli). In 2021, she became the Leader of the Italian Group of FabrianoInAcquarello, which is an important international watercolor event. That same year, she was designated a Brand Ambassador for Daniel Smith, which has been a fruitful and inspiring collaboration.

Lorena has received numerous awards, both nationally and internationally, and she has participated in exhibitions and competitions in various countries around the world.

During the past 20 years, Lorena has been organizing painting courses, which is an aspect of her work that she deeply loves. In recent years, she has begun teaching online courses in collaboration with national and international associations.

Lorena's studio is in Cuneo, a little town on the slopes of the Alps, in the north of Italy, where, nourished by the beauty of nature that surrounds her, she works in watercolor.



REGISTRATION

Please use this form to register for the workshop.

Lorena Massa Online Workshop, “Interpreting Portraits: An Artistic Process”
MARCH 24, 25, 27 (Mon, Tue & Thur), 2025,
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (PST); includes a half-hour noon break

This three-day workshop is for all levels, but experience with the watercolor medium is highly desirable.

PC/iPad/Phone and Internet access will be needed.

Fee: \$225 MVAL Members /
\$255 NonMembers
No Refunds after March 20, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____
Check one: MVAL Member Non Member

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