

An artist in Alaska: inspired by the land and the people

For a second year, Studio Incamminati Instructor Natalie Italiano has taught an *In Your Town* workshop in Haines, AK. In this essay, she shares her impressions of the experience.

Haines, Alaska is a magical place, surrounded by snow-capped mountains, a glacier and the inland waterway of southeast Alaska. I saw bears and eagles in flight. I learned firsthand that a moose is so tall, the bottom of his belly is the height of a Subaru. Everywhere, the growth is lush and beautiful, reminding me of the set of a Tolkien film. You feel far from civilization, and there is good reason. The two-day journey there was long and involved three planes, an overnight in Juneau and a four-hour ferry ride up the inland waterway, during which we saw only the mountains and pristine water. The people on the ferry came from around the globe. With their sturdy hiking boots and other outdoor

equipment, they appeared rugged and prepared for the wilderness. Families could camp on the deck of the ferry and stay aboard for days as it headed north. This is Alaska, the Last Frontier, where the rules are a little different.

This summer was the fourth that Haines has hosted a Studio Incamminati In Your Town workshop. Donna Catotti, the Alaska ambassador for the Portrait Society of America, is the host of these workshops. The Catotti-Goldberg Art Studio, run by Donna and husband Rob, an artist and luthier, contribute to the cultural

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“Alaska is a heady experience, filled with beauty, wildness, and a history that feels close to the present.”



(At top) Natalie with workshop host Donna Catotti; (at right) with Studio Incamminati student Yuko Hays. While living in Haines, Alaska, Yuko attended an In Your Town workshop and was inspired enough to attend Studio Incamminati.



Annual exhibition showcases artists and alumni

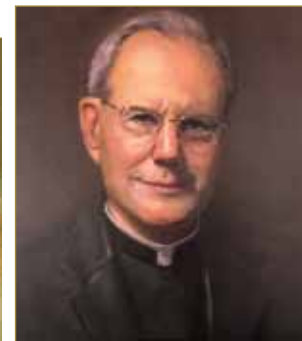
Hundreds enjoyed opening night as internationally renowned Freeman's auction house hosted Studio Incamminati's annual *Artists and Alumni Exhibition and Sale*. More than 60 works of art from more than 50 artists were on display as school instructors JaFang Lu, Darren Kingsley and Christopher Nixon performed a painting demonstration. Meanwhile, school students and faculty greeted guests and answered questions. Proceeds from the exhibition sales, which ran July 17–26, benefited the individual artists and the school's scholarship fund.

Studio Incamminati welcomes your support. For information, please call Jay Pennie at 215.592.1918.

Alumni news

Fine Art Connoisseur profiled new Dean of Faculty and Students **Dan Thompson**. “My interests will be to enhance elements of the curriculum which have striking potential while protecting the bedrock principles that make Studio Incamminati’s educational culture unique,” said Thompson. ♦

Longtime Instructor **Natalie Italiano** was spotlighted in an International Artist magazine piece honoring the Portrait of America Signature Status artists. The designation recognizes “those practicing and accomplished artists who are dedicated to the Portrait Society’s educational mission and high aesthetic standards.” ♦



(Left) Jay Pennie with Linda Dennin at the “Age of Beauty” portrait unveiling fundraiser; The alla prima portraits; (above) FATHER TIMOTHY BYERLEY, Linda C. Dennin, Oil on linen, 15.5 x 15.5 in.

School Fellow and alumna **Linda Dennin**’s 60 portraits of senior citizens were unveiled at “The Age of Beauty,” a fundraiser to benefit the Senior Ministry of St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, Merchantville, NJ. School President **Jay Pennie** was on hand to explain the school’s mission of producing skilled artists who also give back to the community. Impressed with her artistic skills and compassion for the community, the church commissioned Linda to do a portrait of their Pastor, Father Timothy E. Byerley. ♦

Studio Incamminati alumna and Fellow **Lynn Snyder** wrote “Sharing the Podcast Wealth,” a guide to podcasts for artists for the Portrait Society of America blog. ♦

Dean of Faculty and Students **Dan Thompson** and Instructor **Darren Kingsley** had their art work included in “Lines in Motion: Drawings from Historic & Contemporary Masters,” at the Salmagundi Club, NYC. ♦



The main chapters of Instructor Wight’s book include drawing, form, value, color and composition, with demonstrations following that show an application of the skills taught.

Longtime Instructor **Lea Colie Wight**’s excerpt from her new book “Foundations of Classical Oil Painting” was featured in the October issue of Artists Magazine. ♦

(l. to r.) SLEEP, Darren Kingsley, Graphite on paper, 9 x 9 in.; STONE MAN, Dan Thompson, Mixed media, 9.5 x 13 in.



\$10,000 Maggie Price and Urania Christy Tarbet scholarships awarded

First-year students **Catherine Haverkamp** and **Matthew Riggs** are the recipients of this year’s Maggie Price and Urania Christy Tarbet scholarships.

The scholarships, \$5,000 each, were established by the Jack Richeson & Co., Inc., manufacturer and importer of fine arts material. Urania Christy Tarbet was a key force behind the creation of The International Association of Pastel Societies. The late Maggie Price served as president of the societies and co-founded the group’s flagship publication “Pastel Journal.” The scholarships, along with The Ruth Miller Scholarship, courtesy of alumna Ruth Miller, are vital in helping the school fulfill its mission to assist promising artists.



Riggs, Haverkamp

New school Fellows named

Studio Incamminati 2018 graduates **Linda Dennin** and **Damian Smith** have earned Fellows appointments for the 2018–19 academic year. The Fellows Program allows graduates to continue working toward personal and professional artistic goals in a mutually beneficial relationship with the school. In exchange for work as teaching assistants, mentoring other students and other duties, fellows receive studio space, payment for instruction and other benefits. This is a one-year appointment with an option to re-apply annually.



Smith, Dennin

◆ ALUMNI PROFILE ◆

Dian Paramita

Where most people see a dead fish, or, a neatly sliced pineapple, Dian Paramita sees beauty.

Fleeting beauty.

“My artwork centers on celebrating the ephemerality of everyday life,” says the Indonesia native and former marketing professional. “I am intrigued by the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, which embraces beauty in the naturally imperfect world.”

Her artistic vision has been steadily growing. After her 2016 graduation, Dian’s first solo exhibition was “Food for Thought”—30 paintings of various foods. In a nod to Studio Incamminati’s training to have its artists give back, 20% of artwork sales were donated to a non-profit that prepares and delivers healthy meals to underserved people.

Dian, now based in Dallas with her husband (and former Studio Incamminati student) Chris Brizzard, has been working on honing her painting—and networking—skills. She’s been a part of numerous Dallas-area shows and her work is exhibited in the city’s The Dutch Art Gallery. On a wider scale, her paintings are exhibited in the Los Angeles Gallery of Art and the Senimart Gallery in Indonesia.

“In the past two years, I drew my inspirations from food, fish, and water. I love to interpret



(top, r.) POMPANO,
Oil on linen,
16.5 x 19 in.;
(btm, l. to r.)
LIGHT SEEKER,
Oil on linen,
10 x 8 in.;
WOULD YOU
LIKE A GIANT
PIECE OF
PINEAPPLE?
Oil on panel,
12 x 12 in.



the evanescent nature of the subject matters and to capture the gleaming, brilliant textures into two-dimensional surface,” she says. “My aim of painting these short-lived subjects is mainly to preserve their existence and to expose their visual significance before they vanish.”

She also stays busy preparing for her first international solo exhibition in Indonesia,

fulfilling commissions and planning to organize and art retreat program bringing artists to the tropical islands in Indonesia.

“The training at Studio Incamminati has been so valuable in many aspects of my life,” she says. “I started with very little knowledge of painting, and left with a strong foundation to articulate my art.”

An artist in Alaska: inspired by the land and the people *continued from page 1*

and artistic life of Haines and Southeastern Alaska. Last year I taught a Costumed Portrait workshop, and we had the privilege of having two members of the Southeastern Alaska native Tlingit tribe pose in tribal regalia: the personal ceremonial costumes they make and wear for tribal ceremonies. Their traditional Native-American customs and ceremonies are very much alive in Alaska. One of the Native-American models, Jack Strong, posed for me at the local Sheldon Museum for a two-evening demo. His tribal regalia included boots, a headdress and a drum and Abalone shells adorned his clothing. We were surrounded by artifacts from the Tlingit tribe, and I encouraged him to share stories—something he embraced. Punctuated by several beats on his drum, he related stories of his youth, his ancestors and of their dreams. Sometimes singing punctuated a narrative. The drumbeats signaled the end of each story. Everyone was enthralled during his three hours of storytelling. Helen, the museum director and a workshop participant, scrambled for a video camera to record this experience of living history.

One of the most compelling, although tragic, stories involved his grandmother. When she was young, children were forced to attend English-speaking schools in an attempt to wipe out the native cultural traditions. In a brutal attempt to eliminate the native language, her tongue was slit from underneath. She never spoke again. A low drumbeat ended that story. No one spoke for awhile.

His tales were accompanied by a lot of body movement making painting from life a quite a challenge. My demo was merely okay, but no one cared. The entire workshop was elated to be part of such a unique and intimate experience of being connected to Tlingit tribal history and life.

The tribal masks workshop students painted were from Alaskan Indian Arts, an informal museum and arts center on the grounds of historic Ft. Seward. The now-decommissioned fort protected United States territory from Russia before Alaska's statehood. The museum is housed in a rambling, historic wood building, and holds Tlingit artifacts, a totem-building studio, and a local artist's jewelry studio. Many artifacts, including headdresses, moccasins, masks, drums and other ceremonial items, though housed in the museum, are still used by the tribe for cultural and sacred ceremonies. Each mask represents a different animal spirit, and is part of the religious and ceremonial culture of the Tlingit Indians.

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology contains a large collection of Tlingit artifacts and sacred objects. When I tell the Alaskan Arts director I'm from Philadelphia, his first response is that the museum there has his family's artifacts! I cringe and wonder how to respond. Do I apologize? Are they safer there? Should I promise to liberate them when I return home? There are no easy answers.

Alaska is a heady experience, filled with beauty, wildness, and a history that feels close to the present. I feel the pull that has drawn so many people there, including famed environmentalist John Muir, and so many artists and craftsmen that want not only to create, but to live close to the earth. ♦

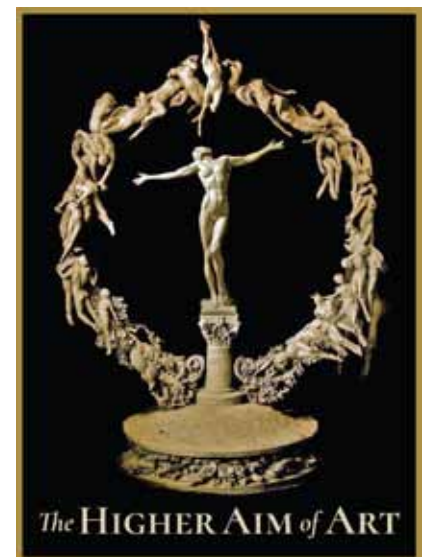
Natalie Italiano is a Studio Incamminati graduate and instructor. View her work at natalieitaliano.com.

New lecture series spotlights "Higher Aim of Art"

With guest artists ranging from a Chinese-born portraitist to a Los Angeles-based storyboard artist, Studio Incamminati launched a new series of evening presentations. Dean of Students and Faculty Dan Thompson and Instructor Stephen Perkins kicked off the series with a slide discussion defining the lecture series itself, clarifying aspects of thematic work for our advancing students and illuminating creative motivations beyond painting technique. The series goal is to have accomplished figurative artists discuss personal

creative philosophies in thought-provoking conversations. Upcoming sessions feature Yuqi Wang, Jon deMartin, Patrick Connors, Vincent Desiderio, Margaret Bowland, Jeff Errico and Christopher Nixon with more to come.

All presentations take place 6–8 p.m. in Studio Incamminati's fifth-floor studio. The cost is \$10. All area art students are invited to attend at no charge. However, they must register online and display a valid student ID at the door. Details at studioincamminati.org



Vitae, Stephen Perkins

Portrait process honors Camden teens

For the eighth year, Studio Incamminati artists painted Alla Prima portraits of *Urban Promise Academy*, Camden, NJ. The intimate portrait process encourages students and artists to share valuable information, form new friendships, and learn more about each other's community. The portraits are donated to their school where they are permanently displayed to honor the achievements of the school's graduates.



1. Urban Promise Academy portrait subject Deja with artist Barbara Zanelli 2. Corde with artist Jason Patrick Jenkins 3. Jaiann with artist Wendy Wagner 4. Ramir with artist Kathy Stewart 5. Ramando with artist Leona Shanks

Imagine that. School returns to Illuxcon

Reaching a new community of representational artists, Studio Incamminati returns to IX 2018, "The World's Largest Gathering of Imaginative Realist Art and Artists." Imaginative realism combines classical painting technique with postmodern narrative subjects, focusing on the unreal, the unseen, and the impossible. It demands the advanced level of drawing and painting skills, gained by Studio Incamminati students. Instructor **Darren Kingsley**, Fellow **Christopher Nixon** and Alumni **Tom Plassa** will perform a painting demonstration that spotlights the school's approach to establishing vitality in figure painting.



STAGES IN CHARCOAL, *Stephen Early*

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Nelson Shanks, (1937–2015),
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STUDIO INCAMMINATI

SCHOOL FOR CONTEMPORARY REALIST ART

340 North 12th Street • Suite 400
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Studio Incamminati exists to meet the needs of students eager to learn the aesthetic and philosophical techniques and principles of humanist realism.

Finding the beauty in nature

“Nature is the bedrock of Realism: It is beautiful, complex, and logical.”—Nelson Shanks

I am continually amazed to see how our artists can capture the deeper meaning in the persons and objects they choose to depict.

For example, veteran Instructor Natalie Italiano traveled to Alaska for one of our popular In Your Town Workshops. And, while she marveled at—and painted—the beautiful vistas, her most moving stories of creating art came from the tribal objects and costumes used for class. Her personal essay on page one brings further insights to the amazing artwork. As Natalie writes, “Alaska is a heady experience, filled with beauty, wildness, and a history that feels close to the present.”

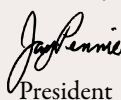
Meanwhile, down in Texas, alumna Dian Paramita continued her fascination with expressing beauty through the most mundane objects, particularly food. Dian’s colorful paintings of seemingly unremarkable objects from butterfly to watermelon bring a surprisingly new look to them. Whether finely detailed or richly textured, she pushes the

viewer to not only look at them in a different way, but feel differently about them.

“My artwork centers on celebrating the ephemerality of everyday life,” she says. I urge you to read about her on page three and view her artwork.

Both a recent graduate such as Dian and a veteran, renowned artist such as Natalie are emblematic of all Studio Incamminati artist. They continually prove that only by painting from life can the hard-won skills they earned create truly meaningful art.

Sincerely,


President

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