

Yet another milestone: Studio Incamminati approved for Federal Student Aid programs

For several years, Studio Incamminati has set strategic goals—and reached them: accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, a Chestnut Hill College partnership offering a degree option, Pennsylvania Department of Education licensing, and certification from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to accept international students.

Now, in a move that broadens the school's reach, better serves its students, and helps achieve the vision of the founders, Studio Incamminati is approved by the United States Department of Education to administer Federal Student Financial Aid programs. That approval also is noteworthy because Studio Incamminati is believed to be the first U.S. art atelier to participate in the Federal Student Aid program.

Federal Student Aid programs goals align well with the school's mission. The Student Aid goals aim to develop skills needed by the country, provide increased access to postsecondary education for all income groups and provide increased choices of schools for all student

cultures including lifetime learners. The programs annually issue \$150 billion in financial aid to 13 million students.

Although Studio Incamminati strives to keep tuition affordable, some students still need financial assistance especially when factoring in living expenses and cost of professional-grade art supplies. These federal programs enable the school us to help those students who qualify by providing Pell grants and low-interest loans. And, they help us offer an exceptional education at an affordable cost so graduates can begin their art careers without the burden of excessive debt.



A resource for students is the Federal Student Aid website, studentaid.ed.gov

“From the beginning, Studio Incamminati has been committed to helping its students in every way possible,” said Board Chairman Frank Giordano. “The best curriculum, the highest quality instructors, affordable tuition and scholarships and, now, financial assistance.”

Comcast Center exhibition extended by popular demand



The highly successful exhibition of 65 works by students, faculty, and alumni at The Market and Shops at Comcast Center has been extended through April 23. “The feedback from our visitors has been so positive, we extended the run,” said Katie Boova, Marketing Coordinator for Liberty Property Trust who operates the Comcast Center with more than 2,500 visitors per day. Even more excitement was added to the school's exhibition with on-site painting demonstrations beginning with the special event Oct. 14 opening reception.



Studio Incamminati co-founders Nelson and Leona Shanks hosted a fundraiser benefitting The Rotary Club of Philadelphia's polio-eradication efforts. The money raised will pay for inoculations of 1,100 children.

(top) Opening night reception; (btm., l. to r.) Live model painting demonstrations by Robin Frey, JaFang Lu and Natalie Italiano

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

Artist accolades

Third-year student **Dian Paramita's** work was featured in the Small Wonders Group Show at Arch Enemy Arts Gallery, Philadelphia. ♦

Fourth-year student **Barbara Zanelli's** "Herd" captured second place in the juried national competition sponsored by the New Jersey Equine Artists Association. She also received "meritorious" on three paintings in the Richeson 75/Figure and Portrait Competition, an international art competition. Her "The Muse" was featured in an exhibition at The Painted Bride in Philadelphia. ♦



(clockwise from top) HERD; Barbara Zanelli; Traced monotype and oil on BFK Rives paper; 24 x 36 inches; THE MUSE; Barbara Zanelli; Oil on canvas; 10 x 10 inches; DUFF; Dian Paramita; Oil on canvas; 10 x 8 inches; HOMER'S BREAKFAST; Dian Paramita; Oil on canvas; 8 x 10 inches



Alumni news

Instructors **Lea Colie Wight**, **Kerry Dunn** and **Joseph Dolderer** were featured in the exhibition "Six Philadelphia Artists" at Haynes Galleries, Nashville, Jan. 30–Feb. 28. "Each displays the mastery of traditional methods Studio Incamminati is known for," according to the gallery. ♦

Snehal Page's one-woman exhibition in Mumbai, India, was reviewed by The Asian Age, one of India's largest media outlets, which hailed it as "brush strokes with a vital message." Snehal, who teaches art, also was selected to participate in the prestigious Portrait Artists Group event of demonstrations and competitions. ♦

Anne E. Hall's piece "What We Do" was awarded second place in the Atlanta Artists Center exhibition "Renewal." ♦

Ruth Miller's works were included in the exhibition "Women Artists of Philadelphia" at Artists' House in Philadelphia. ♦

Natalie Italiano's project "Portraits of Promise: One Hundred Alla Prima Portraits of American Teenagers" (natalieitaliano.blogspot.com) was included in a presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English in Washington DC. ♦

Yell Gallery presented Teaching Fellow **Rob Goodman's** exhibition, "New Works." ♦

Teaching Fellow **Lea Colie Wight** was featured in The Artist's Magazine, which called her "a leading figurative and still life artist." ♦

Studio Incamminati Alumni Coordinator **Diane Rappisi** was featured in Pastel Journal, which said her art "achieves an almost classical sense of form and clarity without sacrificing the pleasures of direct touch." ♦



(above, l. to r.) PREPARING—THE SWIMMER; Lea Colie Wight; Oil on linen; 46 x 26 in.; SIRENS—NIGHT LAUNDRY; Kerry Dunn; Oil on linen; 30 x 30 in.; (below) THREE; Joseph Dolderer; Oil on linen; 30 x 40 in.

(clockwise from top) CAMERON; Natalie Italiano; Oil on canvas; 14 x 14 in.; WHAT WE DO; Anne E. Hall; Oil on canvas; URBAN NEST; Ruth Miller; Oil on canvas; 14 x 22 in.; ROGER; Rob Goodman; Oil on canvas; 24 x 18 in.

Thanks to you, we are fulfilling the dream of students from around the world

Even Michelangelo had help. Though his Sistine Chapel ceiling masterpiece was the result of years of intense personal labor, he did not go it alone. A theologian helped him create the plan, friends with more painting experience (the great man preferred sculpture) got him started and the pope pushed him through the difficult periods.

It is the same here at Studio Incamminati. We attract the artists with talent and desire, but they need help. Thanks to you, they are getting it. And, thanks to you, we are realizing our vision of creating a world-class art school like no other. Our mission of providing superior artistic training with practical career assistance is being realized. Our graduates' work receives national and international accolades as they establish careers in the fine arts. Here, they learn to support themselves through their art and give back by helping others through teaching and mentoring.

Thanks to you, we have two new international students, one from Iran and one from Venezuela. Both our students from abroad, and many from the U.S., tell us about traveling hundreds to thousands of miles and relocating to Philadelphia. That's because they cannot find this artistic training anywhere else in the world. For international students, relocating is not an easy or quick process. Applying for visas, preparing paperwork and arranging travel and relocation to another country takes time and preparation. But once they arrive, they are so

happy with their decision and are completely committed to working hard to achieve their artistic goals.

In this newsletter are the names and profiles of students who arrived this fall. You may notice that they have very diverse backgrounds, ages, levels of education and nationality. However, they all share a common bond: Their passion for realist art and a desire to develop their skills to the highest level possible. Here, they find the community that they have been looking for.

Also, in this newsletter are the names of individuals and organizations that enable us to provide this community. Please, take a few minutes to review the names. We are proud to display them because they are the ones who believe in us and share our passion for art, education, and culture. Every donor is important to us regardless of the contribution size. We could not accomplish all this without them.

In addition to his great art, Michelangelo left us words to live by: "The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."

Sincerely,



President

In grateful recognition of all who have contributed to Studio Incamminati this past year (September 2013–August 2014)

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The Artist's Magazine, March 2015, featuring Lea Colie Wight's Portrait Color class

The December 2014 issue of Pastel Journal featured the art of Diane Rappisi



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Meet our new artists

A video game designer from Texas. Youths fresh out of high school. An architect from Iran. The newest incoming class at Studio Incamminati continues the rich tradition of attracting diverse artists. However, the all share the passion to become the best.



MELISSE BARSE

Previous life: Human Resources professional, English teacher in Spain

During a studio tour, Melisse was impressed by everything about the school. Her feelings have been confirmed, she says, by the rigorous program, quality instruction and staff support.



CHRISTOPHER BRIZZARD

Previous life: Teacher in Texas

Chris, who gave much thought before enrolling, says the instructor input and required work is helping him grow as an artist day by day. "This is a place where tradition is passed on."



SACHELLE BRONSTEIN

Previous life: Aspiring artist

Sachelle prizes the encouragement to think critically, yet develop intuitive sense. "Once I saw the loose brushwork, classical methods and the immense talent of the staff and founder, I knew it was the school for me. Destiny!"



IRIS REYES BUGG

Previous life: High school student

Once Iris learned of Studio Incamminati's partnership with Chestnut Hill College, she knew it was the right decision to attend. "I can have a liberal arts education while at the same time enriching my artistic skills."



RUTH FELDMAN

Previous life: Pediatric occupational therapist

While attending a summer workshop, Ruth was astonished by the combination of expertise, talent and dedication of the staff. The most dramatic impact, she says, is the quality of the teaching. "Everything flows from this."



FAITH GUSSACK

Previous life: Publishing production, graphic designer
A workshop—"clearly thought out, well sequenced and paced and taught by experienced, dedicated artists"—convinced Faith to enroll. The staff's professionalism and sincerity convinced her it was the right choice.



JULIE HOLMES

Previous life: Website builder and trainer

In addition to the curriculum work, Julie says she's learned that the teachers, staff and fellow students are incredibly supportive, enthusiastic and offer a fabulous resource of knowledge and camaraderie.



SVETA JANDA

Previous life: Mother and portrait artist

Ironically, Sveta learned of Studio Incamminati at another atelier. Meeting instructors here convinced her to attend, she says, and the warmth and friendliness of faculty and students has made a dramatic impact on her.



JASON JUSTICE

Previous life: Video game developer in Texas

A longtime artist whose Studio Incamminati summer workshop experience convinced him to enroll full time, Jason says "The community of artists and their dedication to the craft is a continuous source of inspiration."



MEHDI KARAMPOUR

Previous life: Architect in Iran

"I found Studio Incamminati the perfect choice to learn realism drawing and painting from life," Mehdi says. He is similarly impressed with the "good and friendly community" at the school.



VICTORIA MCGRATH

Previous life: Art Historian

Attending workshops led Victoria to enroll full time. "I am here to hone my skills and to expand my knowledge, she says. "I am doing it to become a better artist. It's about hard work and daily practice."



MYUNGEUN (MYUNG) RHIE

Previous life: Teacher in Korea and Chicago
Reading art magazines, Myung was captivated by the Studio Incamminati artwork pictured. The program, she says, has exceeded her expectation to create great realist artists. “I believe I can join these ranks.”



KATHY STEWART

Previous life: Medical Oncologist in Virginia
A fellow artist led her to the Studio Incamminati website which led her to enrollment. “Understanding the basics of gesture, value and form,” she says, “has launched me on a lifelong process of developing my artistic voice.”



DORA SAVIGNAC

Previous life: Ceramic artist and classical vocalist
Studio Incamminati work—“the best representational art I had ever seen,” says Dora—led her to the school for “an education I could be proud of. The proof would be in the work I would be able to produce with that training.”



IRINA VINOKUR

Previous life: Administrative assistant in Philadelphia
“For my first three evening classes, instructor Peter Kelsey had me start over, pushing me to be looser and more efficient. The third start was so drastically better, it sealed the deal for me about attending Studio Incamminati.”



ALEXANDER SHANKS

Previous life: High school student
Alexander was eager to begin his art education immediately. Studio Incamminati, with what he calls the “focus and attention it requires to improve,” was just what he was seeking.



RHONDA WARD

Previous life: Artist and art educator for over 20 years
“Student enthusiasm and sheer love for their work stood out,” says Rhonda. “I have discovered how much there is to learn and master in my chosen profession, far beyond what any other university classes have taught me.”



DAMIEN SMITH

Previous life: Carpenter
Damien, looking for an extended period of intense study, says Studio Incamminati already has fostered his ability to “have patience, stay focused and remain interested in a single drawing.”



ANDREA GOMEZ ZIMMER

Previous life: Communications-studies graduate
“I was inspired when I saw the beauty and detail in the Margaret Thatcher portrait by Nelson Shanks,” Venezuela native Andrea says. “Being able to work with professional models in a studio setting has brought a new level of realism to my work.”

In grateful recognition *continued from page 3*

- Brandon and Jenny Knox
- Tom and Linda Knox
- The Honorable and Mrs. William H. Lamb
- Eric and Diane Leichter
- Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. LeVine
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Studio Incamminati

School for Contemporary Realist Art

340 North 12th Street ■ Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Studio Incamminati exists to meet the needs of students eager to learn the aesthetic and philosophical techniques and principles of humanist realism.

Studio Incamminati gives back

Several Studio Incamminati faculty and students again proved their commitment to “giving back” when their art was selected for exhibition benefitting the Abramson Center of the University of Pennsylvania. Featured was work from Teaching Fellow **Peter Kelsey**, fourth-year student **Shira Friedman**, third-year student **Dian Paramita** and second-year student **Jason Patrick Jenkins**.



(above) MEREDITH; Peter Kelsey;
Pencil on paper; 17 x 14 in.
(left) SITTING EIREN;
Dian Paramita; Oil on panel; 20 x 16 in.

More than a dozen Studio Incamminati faculty and students crawled out of their warm Saturday-morning beds to answer phones and accept pledges for local National Public Radio affiliate **WHYY-FM**.



Members of the Yale Club of Philadelphia, led by Studio Incamminati board member **Alvin Holm, A.I.A.**, enjoyed a Day of Painting in which they experienced the progressive curriculum firsthand.

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