

15th Anniversary Celebration Naturally Exciting

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

NELSON SHANKS, Studio Incamminati Founder

The works of Studio Incamminati artists—figurative, still life and plein air—are constant testimony to those words. Since the natural world remains the artists’ inspiration, it was only natural to have the school’s annual celebration at Willowstreams, a 37-acre Natural Lands Trust-protected expanse of wetlands, meadows and woodlands in Bryn Mawr, PA.

Federico Castelluccio, a star of the iconic TV series, “The Sopranos” and himself an accomplished painter, serves as master of ceremonies with

esteemed auctioneer George McNeely handling the live-auction duties. A highlight is longtime Studio Incamminati supporter and current board member Deborah Webster receiving the 2017 Founders’ Award honoring those whose contributions to the arts significantly impact our community, leaving it in a better place.

Guests enjoy cocktails and hors d’œuvres as they stroll the gardens, paths and the apple orchard watching school artists paint the lush landscape. A delicious “Farm to Table” dinner complements the beautiful unspoiled setting. ♦

For information studioincamminati.org



FARM TO TABLE
Studio Incamminati 15th
Anniversary Celebration
4–7:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 11
Willowstreams
3824 Darby Road
Bryn Mawr, PA

Annual artists exhibition comes to Main Line gallery

Avery Galleries, owned and operated by Studio Incamminati board member Richard Rossello, is this year’s host for the Artists and Alumni of Studio Incamminati Annual Exhibition and Sale.

The exhibition, which runs through June 28, features more than 40 works of art by noted contemporary realist artists, many who have won national and international awards and had their artwork featured in magazines such as International Artist, American Art Collector and Fine Art Connoisseur.

All proceeds benefit the Studio Incamminati scholarship fund, helping the school fulfill its mission of making its education as accessible as possible to all deserving art students regardless of financial means.

The event is sponsored by Avery Galleries with in-kind support from New Wave Fine Art Products, RayMar Art, Star Print Mail, Inc. and Silver Brush Limited.

Artists and Alumni of Studio Incamminati Exhibition and Sale

Opening Night Champagne Reception

6–8:30 p.m., June 2

Exhibition continues through June 28

Avery Galleries

100 Chetwynd Drive, Bryn Mawr, PA

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. or by appointment

Sponsored by:

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

Artist accolades

Fourth-year student **Jason Patrick Jenkins** was awarded a \$10,000 fellowship from the Stobart Foundation. The award aims to help qualified artists as they begin their post-graduate careers. Jason was also finalist in the Art Renewal Center's 12th International ARC Salon. The competition drew work from more than 1,300 artists in 63 countries. ♦

Angelique Benrahou, a fourth-year student, earned first place in the Philadelphia Sketch Club's 154th Exhibition of Small Oils with her work "Violets and Clovers." More than 100 artists participated. ♦



(Above) *VESSELS*, Jason Patrick Jenkins, Oil on linen, 16 x 20 in.

(Btm. row, l. to r.) Works by **Kathy Stewart**: *GREEN SCARF*, Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in.; *RED SCARF*, Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in.; *PAIUTE BASKET AND NAVAJO BLANKET*, Oil on canvas, 17 x 14 in.

Fourth-year student **Lynn Snyder**'s piece "The Violin" earned an Honorable Mention in the "The Art of Music" exhibition at Beauty Art Gallery, Newtown Square. ♦



(Top, l. to r.) *VIOLETS AND CLOVERS*, Angelique Benrahou, Oil on panel, 20 x 16 in.; *THE VIOLIN*, Lynn Snyder, Oil on canvas, 12 x 16 in.



Alumni news

Studio Incamminati Fellow **Shira Friedman**'s painting, "One Fish" was awarded third place in the Richeson 75 International Still Life and Floral competition. Her piece "What You See Is What You Get" was a finalist. ♦

Instructor **Katya Held** and alumna **Ruth Miller** were juried into the Philadelphia Sketch Club's 154th Annual Exhibition of Small Oil Paintings. ♦

Instructor **Peter Kelsey** presented a painting demonstration at The Artists Gallery, Virginia Beach, VA. ♦

Jen Bowen held the public opening of her studio in Dunnellon, FL. ♦



(Clockwise, from top left) *BEFORE WORKDAY*, Katya Held, Oil on canvas, 11 x 14 in.; *BUTTERFLIES AND FLOWERS*, Ruth Miller, Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in.; *ONE FISH*, Shira Friedman, Oil on linen, 12 x 18 in.; Peter Kelsey's painting demonstration.

◆ ALUMNI PROFILE ◆

Jennifer Bowen

For Jennifer Hagen Bowen, an art career is more than just “pushing paint” its about pushing through.

Meeting challenges head on was her approach as a student and



it has carried over into her professional career back home in Florida. In addition to the usual obstacles such as paying for models and procuring a home studio, she tends to a 1-year-old son, Gage, and is expecting another child.

“Overall, I would say to my fellow artists ‘endeavor to persevere,’” she said “and give your career time—and a strong push.”



PAINTING THE ROSES RED,
Oil on linen, 20 x 28 in.

Jen also keeps busy providing pieces to the Rutledge Street Gallery, the Camden, SC gallery that represents her. “They keep selling mine,” she said. She also is working on increasing her representation at other galleries, entering local competitions and shows, painting the occasional commission (“I just received one to paint an expectant mother I know who wants a different way to document her pregnancy.”) and preparing to offer classes at her just-built home studio this fall.

And, she says, it began in Philadelphia.

“Studio Incamminati is still one of the best decisions I have ever made and I would still choose it as the art school to attend even with all of the current choices out there,” she said. “I appreciate each of the teacher’s time and energy. I especially love the teaching program which gave me the experience to come back here and teach in my own community.”

You can view Jen’s work at jenbowenart.com

Studio Incamminati artists bring school’s message to India

While India is not renowned for a widespread realist art scene, alumni Joe Dolderer says he felt right at home during his master class/live-model painting demonstration in Bangalore.

His friend, and current Studio Incamminati student Jay Varma, made sure of that. Joe was Jay’s special guest during outreach events tied to an exhibition of paintings featuring Jay’s mother, a celebrated artist in India.

With Joe painting and answering questions, and Jay as his translator, the goal of the event was to illustrate the principles of Studio Incamminati’s approach to painting while exploring both countries’ artistic lineage. “We discussed not only techniques,” Joe said, “but Western and Eastern art and how they’ve impacted each other.”

One of the challenges, according to Joe, was just discussing the whole notion of realism in art. Modern and abstract art are quite popular in India. And, much of the crowd’s aesthetic is heavily influenced by the country’s rich mythology and art featuring an array of exotic deities and meticulous decorative ornamental patterns. “They didn’t have a lot of Western aesthetic,” said Joe.

While Joe and his hosts enjoyed common ground on the use of vibrant color and high



(Above, top): From left, unidentified model, Jay Varma, Joseph Dolderer, event organizer Gitanjali Maini; (bottom): Direct painting was a new idea. (Below, top): Joe explains the Studio Incamminati approach; (bottom): The crowd was fascinated by the start.

regard for craftsmanship, their use of “tighter” draftsmanship sparked curiosity about Studio Incamminati’s much looser approach. The artists asked a lot of technical questions about the painting’s start which used the Studio Incamminati approach of direct painting instead of creating a drawing and laying in colors the colors.

“The start fascinated them,” Joe said. “The whole audience was pretty interested in that way of working and they were surprised someone would begin that way, trying to capture the whole composition.”

The East Meets West sojourn was aided by the location in Bangalore, a sort of Silicon Valley of India which draws a diverse and sophisticated population.

“Everyone was so open to our art and had a huge appreciation for it. They were very interested in the Studio Incamminati curriculum and the whole idea of having such a program,” Joe said. “I was so happy to be accepted and find how our art was accepted by a culture so far away.

“It spoke to the universal appeal of art.” ◆



Project HOME artists earn a spot at Rittenhouse Show



Project HOME artists with instructors Barbara Zanelli and Dan Mahlman and coordinator Rachel Ehrgood

Although they didn't fit into the traditional mold of either full-time art students or professional artists, participants in the Studio Incamminati/Project HOME Art Program, were accepted into the Rittenhouse Square Arts Fair—the nation's oldest outdoor art show.

The art program, a 10-week foundational still life drawing workshop in its second year, is a collaboration between the two nonprofits based on Studio Incamminati's curriculum

The students are taught by Studio Incamminati Instructor Dan Mahlman and Fellows Rachel

Pierson and Barbara Zanelli. The program is funded by board member Richard Rossello, owner of Avery Galleries, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Project HOME Artists at the Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Friday, June 2, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Saturday, June 3, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Rittenhouse Square

18th and Walnut Streets

Philadelphia, PA

Meet our new board member



James Abbott, Ph.D., who served on Studio Incamminati's board for several years, has returned for another term. Dr. Abbott is professor and chair in Rowan University's Department of Sociology where he has taught numerous courses including Classical Sociological Theory, Political Sociology and Sociology of Culture for almost two decades. A noted art connoisseur, Abbott authored the introductory essay to Nelson Shanks' catalog "Mastery and Meaning." He has authored a number of scholarly articles and made presentations including "Baseball Architecture and Sociability"

and "Chicago and the Frontier Ethos: A Reassessment of a Wide Open Town." Abbott, who previously taught at Franklin and Marshall College and Swarthmore College, serves on the editorial board of the academic journal, "The American Sociologist." Abbott's memberships include, the American Sociological Association, the Eastern Sociological Association, the American Sociological Association's Theory Section, the American Sociological Association's History of Sociology Section and Delta Epsilon Sigma Scholastic Honor Society. Jim earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, his M.A. at the University of Pennsylvania and his B.A. at the University of San Diego.

Our virtual "open house" reached six continents

I'm very excited and pleased to report that we made a major effort to move the mission forward. On March 25, we presented our first live painting demonstration broadcast around the world through Facebook Livestream.



During the event, I was fascinated to see how the latest technology met with our very traditional art form. While the hundreds of feet of cable, five cameras, a

half-dozen computers, servers, special lighting, and skilled technicians would impress even the most sophisticated tech geek—they all played just a supporting role. The spotlight belonged to the three artist/teachers who demonstrated their painting skills masterfully—Kerry Dunn, Darren Kingsley, Lea Colie Wight—and artist/teachers Natalie Italiano and Dan Thompson who deftly narrated the action and fielded questions from the live audience worldwide. All five artists did an amazing job as evident in

the questions, comments, and responses from the U.S., New Zealand, South Korea, Malaysia, China, the Caribbean and a host of other locales.

But, sharing the spotlight, were the more than 10,000 people connecting with us virtually. These are people hungry for this information, but without the ability to visit in person—at least for the time being. At the recent Portrait Society of America conference in Atlanta, it was gratifying to meet a few of the online participants from New Zealand and the Netherlands. They are anxious for us to do another live stream.

Below are just a few of the many comments that I would like to share with you. We will no doubt do this again. The next time, we reach the seventh continent. Antarctica, we're coming for you!

"Gold. Thanks so much from South Africa! :)" – Cathy

"Great! We need more schools like those in Europe!" – Rodolfo, Portugal

"It's really very interesting to watch the three individual approaches on how each artist perceives the emotions of the model." – Esther

"One of the best such demos that I have ever seen." – Karmen

Sincerely,

Jaip Penne
President

In the Community

Painting demonstrations around town



In what has become an annual celebration of art and music, Studio Incamminati was a dramatic presence at the *Philadelphia Youth Orchestra gala*. Studio Incamminati artists performed a painting demonstration for orchestra guests who also enjoyed an exhibition and sale of artwork. All proceeds supported the artists, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and Studio Incamminati.



Studio Incamminati partnered with *Blick Art Supplies* to offer a series of afternoon live-model painting demonstrations at its Chestnut St., Philadelphia, location. In addition to their demos, Fellows Nell O'Leary and Chris Nixon, Instructor Peter Kelsey (pictured above, left) and students Sharon McHugh and Kathleen Moore answered questions about the school's painting process.

Thanks to an opportunity from The Hudson Valley Seed Company, *PHS Philadelphia Flower Show* visitors enjoyed Studio Incamminati artwork displays and painting demonstrations by (l. to r.) Fellow Shira Friedman and students Sharon McHugh and Jason Patrick Jenkins.



Doane student exhibition

Students in *Doane Academy's* Visual Arts program, who receive instruction in anatomy, figure and still life from Studio Incamminati artists Robin Frey and Jarred Fisher, exhibited more than 50 pieces their work at the Burlington, NJ school. At the school's Art Day, Fisher performed a painting demonstration.

Rotary Night of Painting

President Jay Pennie welcomed his *Rotary Club of Philadelphia* colleagues to "A Night of Painting" where, under the guidance of school artists, they painted models and raised money to inoculate children against polio.



"Art of the Portrait" conference

Director of Education Programming Andrew Yannelli and President Jay Pennie represented Studio Incamminati at the *Portrait Society of America's* "Art of the Portrait" annual conference. They met with artists from around the country, discussing art and spreading the word about the school's offerings.

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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.

Facebook Live demo made a world of difference

Technology and tradition embraced on a global scale when Studio Incamminati instructors *Kerry Dunn*, *Darren Kingsley* and *Lea Colie Wight* performed a four-hour painting demonstration broadcast on Facebook Live. Working simultaneously, the three showcased the Studio Incamminati approach—a gestural direct-style painting method combining academic drawing, form painting and a broad color palette. Perhaps most importantly, the flexibility of the school's approach allowed individual style to shine through:

- ♦ Lea Colie Wight's pastel portrait displayed drawing, form and color.
- ♦ Darren Kingsley's modified limited palette emphasized the form.

- ♦ Kerry Dunn's work stressed a bold color start with modeling construction and refinement.

Expert commentary from faculty members *Dan Thompson* and *Natalie Italiano*, aided by *Leona Shanks*, *JaFang Lu* and *Rachel Pierson*, added context and answered questions from online viewers and a small in-house group of students. Viewer response was tremendous: 10,000 views and nearly 5,000 likes, comments and shares.

In the words of Dianne from Malaysia, one of 16 countries where viewers watched: “*That was one of the best organized and executed live demo through the internet I’ve ever seen.*” ♦



View an archive of the entire, four-hour event at facebook.com/TheStudioIncamminati/videos



(l. to r.) Artists Kingsley, Wight and Dunn; The in-house audience and five-camera film crew; Artistic Director Leona Shanks (center) joins moderators Thompson and Italiano for the live chat.

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