



THE ART OF THE PORTRAIT

Washington, DC
May 6-9, 2027

LEARN . CONNECT . BE INSPIRED...in the Nation's Capitol

Pre-Conference Workshops: Thursday, May 6, 2027

Thursday, May 6

9:00a-4:00p

FULL

The Power of Drawing with Dan Thompson

Explore the essential principles of drawing with Dan Thompson in this focused, hands-on workshop. Through demonstrations and guided instruction, participants will strengthen their understanding of proportion, structure, value, and gesture while developing a more confident and expressive approach to drawing the figure and portrait.

Thursday, May 6

9:00a-4:00p

FULL

Expressive Pastel Pencil Portraits with Oliver Sin

In this hands-on workshop, Oliver Sin will demonstrate how to create expressive portraits using pastel pencils on toned paper. Using a reference image provided by Oliver, participants will learn how to use the toned surface as a middle value, building both lights and darks to create convincing form and bring the portrait to life. Emphasis will be placed on value, shape, likeness, and color.

Thursday, May 6

9:00a-4:00p

FULL

A Three-Dimensional Approach to Artistic Anatomy with Melinda Whitmore

In this workshop, students will learn to construct their own anatomical *écorché* using a life-size artificial skull. By using clay, students will develop a truly three-dimensional understanding of how to sculpt forms in space. Muscular origins and insertions will be addressed along with sculpting the corresponding features of the eyes, nose, and mouth. Lectures will also address how these muscles govern facial structure and expression, giving students a richer understanding of anatomy and an overall elevation of their portrait work. *(There is a \$65 supply kit fee for a skull, clay tool, and block of clay.)*

The Art of the Portrait Opens: Thursday, May 6, 2027

Thursday, May 6

4:00p-7:30p

Name Badge Pick-up and On-Site Registration Grand Opening of Exhibit Hall - Art Manufacturers and Services

Thursday, May 6

4:30p-7:30p

Face-Off: Kick off the weekend activities with a high-energy program as 17 featured artists, in groups of 3, demonstrate in a variety of mediums including oil, watercolor, charcoal, and clay: **Louis Carr, Rick Casali, Ali Cavanaugh, Marc Dalessio, Michelle Dunaway, Rose Frantzen, Wende Caporale-Greene, Jeff Hein, Quang Ho, Chelsea Lang, Robert Liberace, Heather Personett, Mary Qian, Kai Lun Qu, Timothy Rees, Mario Robinson, and Adrienne Stein**

The completed works will be featured in a Silent Auction ending Friday at 6:30p, with proceeds supporting the Portrait Society's Scholarship Program.

Thursday, May 6

7:30p-10:00p

The Next Generation with Christina Cruz and Katya Dennison

Join these artists for a dynamic session of live portrait drawing as each demonstrates their unique approach and techniques. Participants are invited to draw alongside the guest artists in our free, open drawing studio. All skill levels are welcome, so come observe, draw, and be inspired!

Thursday, May 6

7:30p-10:00p

Open and Free Drawing Studio *(Models provided, drawing only)***Friday, May 7, 2027****Friday, May 7**

10:00a-5:30p

Exhibits and Sales of Art Materials and Products**Friday, May 7**

9:00a

Morning EXPRESS-o: A High-Energy Start*(Complimentary Coffee served 8:00a-9:00a)*

- **Creativity – The Courage to Create: Mary Whyte**
- **Defining Moments: Marc Dalessio, Rose Frantzen, Robert Liberace**
- **Welcome: Michael Shane Neal**

Friday, May 7

10:00a-10:30a

Break**Friday, May 7**

10:30a-12:30p

Two Masters, Two Approaches: A Portrait Painting Demonstration with Robert Liberace and Marc Dalessio

Watch a dynamic painting demonstration that explores two distinct approaches to portraiture. Each artist will share his process, from initial observation through color, value, brushwork, and the development of form. This side-by-side experience offers a unique opportunity to compare techniques, discover different solutions to the challenges of portrait painting, and gain insights you can apply to your own work.

Friday, May 7

12:30p-2:00p

Lunch Break**Book Signings and Portfolio Critiques****Friday, May 7**

2:00p-4:00p

Breakout Sessions (Select only one)**Friday, May 7**

2:00p-4:00p

The Finish: Where the Portrait Comes Alive with Michelle Dunaway

What happens in the final stages of a portrait when the likeness, expression, and character all come together? In this demo, Michelle will bring a portrait already three-quarters complete and, working from life, demonstrate how she approaches the critical finishing stages. In addition, Michelle's model, Lou Brault, owner of Rosa Bonheur's historic art studio in France, will share fascinating stories about the life, work, and legacy of this master artist.

Friday, May 7

2:00p-4:00p

FULL

Creating Compelling Backgrounds: Setting the Stage for a Stronger Portrait with Sean Layh and Adrienne Stein

Discover how thoughtful background choices can transform a portrait and elevate the entire composition. Sean Layh and Adrienne Stein will explore the elements that can be used to create backgrounds that complement the subject without competing for attention. Learn how to establish depth, mood, and visual harmony while making intentional decisions that strengthen the overall impact of your portrait.

Friday, May 7

2:00p-4:00p

FULL

Mixing Beautiful Skin Tones with Louis Carr, Ali Cavanaugh, Chelsea Lang and Mario Robinson

Gain confidence in creating a beautiful range of lifelike skin tones through thoughtful, intentional color mixing as these artists share their approaches to mixing flesh tones, balancing temperature and value, and responding to the subtle variations found in real skin. Through demonstrations and practical insights, discover how to create luminous, convincing skin tones that bring greater depth, dimension, and life to your portraits.

Friday, May 7

2:00p-4:00p

FULL

Between Realism and Abstraction with Jeff Hein and Quang Ho

Through demonstration and conversation, Jeff and Quang will explore the figure through two distinct yet complementary approaches, balancing observation and realism with expressive abstraction. They will reveal how shape, color, value, and design can move a figure beyond literal representation and create a more compelling, contemporary work of art.

Friday, May 7

2:00p-4:00p

Drawing with Line: Contour, Depth and Dimension with Timothy Rees

In this hands-on class, Timothy Rees will guide students through the use of contour drawing to create depth, dimension, and form within the portrait using line rather than extensive shading. Through practical exercises, students will explore varying line weight, overlapping contours, and thoughtful line placement to describe the structure and planes within the portrait, drawing inspiration from artists such as Holbein and Ingres. The class will help artists make more intentional use of line as a powerful tool for creating a stronger, more dimensional drawing.

Friday, May 7

4:30p-5:30p

Meet the Finalists from The International Exhibit Happy Hour

Friday, May 7

5:30p-6:30p

5:30pm: Doors Open for Preview of 6x9 Mystery Art Sale
6:00pm: Sales Begin for 6x9 Mystery Art Sale
6:30pm: Last bid for Silent Auction of Face Off Paintings

Friday, May 7

7:30p-10:00p

Open and Free Drawing Studio *(Models provided, drawing only)*

Saturday, May 8, 2027

Saturday, May 8

10:00a-5:00p

Exhibits and Sales of Art Materials and Products

Saturday, May 8

9:00a-10:00a

Art Talk: Discussion on Business Strategies for Artists with Louis Carr, Michael Shane Neal, and Mary Whyte

Learn practical ways to grow your career and hear about other sources of income, using social media, how to attract collectors, and how to build a sustainable art business.

Saturday, May 8

10:00a-10:30a

Break

Saturday, May 8

10:30a-12:30p

Breakout Sessions (Select only one)

Saturday, May 8

10:30a-12:30p

The Art of Seeing with Mary Qian and Dan Thompson

Mary Qian and Dan Thompson explore the art of truly seeing and interpreting the human face and figure through both drawing and painting. In their demonstrations, they will share their individual approaches to proportion, structure, value, and capturing the unique character and presence of the sitter.

Saturday, May 8

10:30a-12:30p

FULL

Simplify the Portrait: Shape, Value, and Expression with Oliver Sin

In this hands-on drawing session, Oliver Sin will guide participants through his approach to simplifying the portrait using shape and value. Attendees will draw along with Oliver as he demonstrates how to see the head as simple abstract shapes, establish clear light-and-shadow patterns, and create the illusion of three-dimensional form without becoming overwhelmed by details. The session will emphasize practical techniques participants can immediately apply to make their portraits more convincing, expressive, and alive.

Saturday, May 8

10:30a-12:30p

Anatomy for Portrait Artists: Structure, Form, and Expression with Rick Casali, Heather Personett, and Melinda Whitmore

Join three sculptors for an engaging exploration of anatomy designed specifically for portrait artists. Through demonstrations and practical instruction, they will break down the underlying structures of the head and figure, showing how bones, muscles, and landmarks influence proportion, form, and expression. This session will help you see beyond the surface and better understand what gives a portrait its structure, movement, and character.

Saturday, May 8

10:30a-12:30p

FULL

Mastering Edge Treatment with Quang Ho, Kai Lun Qu, and Timothy Rees

Discover how thoughtful control of hard, soft, and lost edges can create focus, depth, atmosphere, and realism in your paintings. Learn how strategic edge choices can guide the viewer's eye, enhance form, and bring greater dimension and visual impact to your work.

Saturday, May 8

10:30a-12:30p

FULL**Refining the Figure: What to Keep, What to Let Go with Sean Layh**

Join Sean for an in-depth exploration of the power of selective composition in large-scale figurative work. Learn how to identify the essential elements that drive narrative and emotion, and how to confidently eliminate what distracts or dilutes your message. Learn strategies for simplifying complex scenes, enhancing focal points, and creating strong, intentional designs.

Saturday, May 8

12:30p-2:00p

Lunch Break**Book Signings and Portfolio Critiques****Saturday, May 8**

2:00p-4:30p

A Shared Approach to the Portrait with Rose Frantzen and Shane Wolf

Two distinctive voices in contemporary portraiture, Rose Frantzen and Shane Wolf, come together for a dynamic demonstration exploring their individual approaches to painting the human face and figure. Watch as they share insights into observation, color, brushwork, and the creative decisions that bring a portrait to life.

Saturday, May 8

6:00p-7:00p

Cocktail Reception**Saturday, May 8**

7:00p-9:30p

The Gala Banquet and Awards Program

- The Future Generation Award
- Signature Status Awards
- The International Awards
- The Excellence in Fine Art Education: The de Laszlo Archive Trust
- Gold Medal Award: John Coleman

Saturday, May 8

7:30p-10:00p

Open and Free Drawing Studio *(Models provided, drawing only)***Sunday, May 9, 2027****Sunday, May 9**

8:30a-12:30p

Exhibits and Sales of Art Materials and Products**Sunday, May 9**

9:00a-10:00a

Sorolla and Velázquez: The Portrait Secrets of Two Masters with Micah Christensen

The Spanish painter and master portraitist Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (1863-1923) spent a lifetime studying Diego Velázquez (1599-1660), whose portraits, created 300 years earlier, are unique in the history of art. Dr. Christensen explores Velázquez's influence on Sorolla and a whole generation of artists, including John Singer Sargent and Anders Zorn.

Sunday, May 9

10:00a-10:30a

Break

Sunday, May 9

10:30a-12:00p

The Anatomy of the Portrait with Robert Liberace, Dan Thompson, and Melinda Whitmore

Explore the anatomy of the human figure with three accomplished instructors who bring unique perspectives to understanding structure, proportion, and form. Through demonstrations and practical insights, each will show how a deeper knowledge of anatomy can strengthen drawing and painting and bring greater realism and expression to the portrait.

Sunday, May 9

12:30p

Visit the National Portrait Gallery

Buses leave promptly at 12:30p and return after 6:00p

Buses will load at the front entrance of the Hyatt Regency

Tuition: Member Rate: \$650 and Non-Member Rate: \$750

Virtual: \$550

Pre-Conference workshops are not included in the tuition price and are an additional \$195.

For only \$100 more, you can add 90 days of unlimited re-watch of on-demand recordings of all the programs.

Cancellation Policy: If your plans change, please notify the Portrait Society in writing before February 18, 2027, to receive a full refund. After February 18, 2027, you will receive educational credit for your tuition less a \$100 cancellation fee. Your educational credit may be applied to future conference or membership dues within three years. Banquet tickets, Bus tickets, and Pre-Conference Workshops are non-refundable.