



Griffen

Peter Griffen
Abstracting in the Italian Landscape

Villa Madonna, Cottanello, Italy
ITALY ARTIST RETREATS
31st May – 11th June 2010



In the Italian summer of 2010, join Peter Griffen, well known as one of Australia's leading abstract painters, on an artistic adventure at Villa Madonna, Cottanello, in the Sabine region of Italy. Peter teaches and exhibits throughout Australia and New Zealand, and this will be his second summer school in Italy.

During the workshop you will be staying at "Villa Madonna", an artist's retreat which overlooks the medieval hilltop town of Cottanello, approximately 80km north-east of Rome. Here you find yourself in a corner of Italy as yet unspoiled by the advance of commercial tourism. The views to the village and over the surrounding countryside are breathtaking.

It's an inspiring landscape for every aspiring artist. What's more, the great wines, delicious local fresh food and the cooking tradition provide a delight for all tastes in an enjoyable temperate climate.

Peter invites you to join him in the studio at Villa Madonna for ten days of free-thinking, experimental abstract painting, semi-abstract still life and en plein air painting. Many techniques using acrylic paint are demonstrated, with particular emphasis on composition, line and strong colour.

To enhance your workshop studies, excursions have been arranged to some of the medieval villages and ancient monuments of the Sabine area.

Itinerary

Monday 31st May: Check into the hotel in Rome. This will give you an opportunity to meet your group, and you will spend your first night here.

Tuesday: This morning, after breakfast, you will be transferred by bus to Villa Madonna, near the village of Cottanello in the Sabine Hills. After lunch, settle in and explore the surrounds.

5.00 pm: Over drinks, Peter will give an introduction to the workshop.

Wednesday: After breakfast, Peter will guide the group into the first day of pure abstraction. The whole day will be spent in the studio.

Thursday morning: The morning will be spent in the studio painting a semi-abstract still life.

Afternoon: After lunch, there is a guided tour of the medieval village of Cottanello, and availability of the guide permitting, the nearby Roman Villa built from 200BC through 200AD, and the hermitage of San Cataldo where Saint Francis of Assisi stayed.

Friday morning: Friday markets at Poggio Mirteto give you an opportunity to see a real Italian country town market. Here they sell everything from poultry, vegetables and household items to clothing, shoes and jewellery.

Afternoon: After lunch, we will continue work in the studio.

Saturday: Peter will work all day in the studio with the group.

Sunday: Today is a day of rest. There are plenty of good walking tracks in the area, or you can just relax and read. The studio will be available for those who wish to paint.

At 1.00pm we will be taken to Montasola, a nearby hill town for Sunday lunch at what Jakki and Russell call “the best restaurant in Sabina”, where diners travel from Rome to experience the specialties. This is an event not to be missed, and is included for your enjoyment as part of the workshop.

Monday morning: The morning will be spent in the studio.

Afternoon: A tour will depart after lunch for the old Abbey of Vescovio, built on the ruins of a Roman market place. On to the village of Rocchette, and the nearby fortress of Rocchettina – both retaining the feeling of still being in the middle ages.

Tuesday: The morning will be spent in the studio with Peter, followed by a picnic lunch and some en plein air painting at the Prati - the high meadows in the mountains above Cottanello. There is an old abandoned village, and most of the stone dwellings are still in tact. Most of the afternoon will be spent painting en plein air.

Wednesday morning: The morning will be spent in the studio.

Afternoon: Late afternoon will be spent visiting the Sanctuary at Greccio, where Saint Francis of Assisi and his followers often stayed.

Thursday: The final workshop day will be spent finalizing the paintings, and Peter giving his critique of the work.

Friday: After breakfast, you will be transferred to Stimigliano station where you can take a train either to Rome, to Fiumicino airport, or to Orte, where you can connect with fast trains to cities in the north.

Workshop Cost: AUD \$ 4,720.00

During the retreat, you are an invited guest at Villa Madonna, and your hosts Jakki and Russell will ensure that you enjoy the best that Italian country life can offer.

What's included:

- Your first night's accommodation at a hotel in Rome.
- Transfers from your hotel in Rome to Villa Madonna, and on the day of departure, to the station at Stimigliano.
- 10 nights accommodation at Villa Madonna
- Three meals a day while at the villa, including wine with lunch and dinner, plus morning and afternoon tea.
- An Italian Sunday lunch experience at a local restaurant.
- All excursions in the beautiful area of Sabina as specified in the itinerary.
- Daily workshop activities with Peter.
- 24hr use of the studio during your stay at Villa Madonna.
- All studio materials.
- Free internet access.
- Laundry facilities.

What's not included in the price:

- Travel arrangements not listed in the itinerary.
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses, taxis, drinks and meals while away from Villa Madonna.
- Excess baggage charges.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Meals and personal expenses while in Rome

How to book your Painting Workshop

To make a reservation by email: Please print and complete the attached booking form, sign, scan and email to:

Jakki Boucaut at villamadonna@jakrusl.com

Payment terms

Deposit: As soon as your booking has been confirmed, a deposit of A\$500.00 per person is required to be paid within fourteen (14) days to secure your place. The deposit can be made by Internet transfer, or direct deposit to the account detailed on the reservation form.

Final Payment: The final payment for your workshop is required to reach the bank account 60 days prior to the date of commencement of the workshop. Final payment can be made by Internet transfer, or direct deposit to the account detailed on the reservation form.

General Information and Conditions:

Cancellation by Student: Cancellations received in writing 61 days or more prior to start of the workshop will not incur any fee. Cancellations received in writing 60 days or less prior to commencement of the workshop may result in the loss of the deposit paid.

Cancellation by the Organisers: Should the Workshop be cancelled for any reason, a refund will be given to each student of any monies paid.

General: In the unlikely event that the tutor is unable to perform his or her duties due to unforeseen contingencies, we reserve the right to substitute another artist as tutor and to continue with the Workshop as planned.

Travel insurance: Mandatory for all Workshop Participants. It is each Participant's responsibility to ensure they have adequate Insurance Cover for the consequences of unforeseen events during the Workshop and for fees that could result from illness, accident, death or other contingencies.

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Reservation Form:

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____ Postcode: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Please confirm any special dietary requirements at the time of booking.

I agree that I stay at my own risk and will not hold the organizers of the retreat responsible for any delay, injury, accident, death to myself or any loss, damage or delay to property due to an act of negligence, or default of any person rendering a service included in the retreat, or by act of God.

Further, I will not hold the retreat organisers responsible for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. I will not hold the organisers responsible for any additional omissions or delays, or for expenses outside those specified in the itinerary. I agree that all baggage remains at its owner's risk throughout the retreat.

I also agree to purchase the mandatory travel insurance that will cover the consequences of any unforeseen events during the retreat and any loss of fees that could result from illness, accident, death or other contingencies.

Signed _____

Print Name _____ Date ____/____/____

Please email this form to: villamadonna@jakrusl.com

The cost of the Workshop is AUD \$ 4,720.00

Deposit of A\$500.00 needs to be made within fourteen (14) days of making a reservation.

Final payment is due 60 days prior to commencement of the workshop.

Payments to be made to the following account:

Bank: Macquarie Bank
Branch: Brisbane
BSB: 184 446
Account No: 117376863
Account Name: J.C. Boucaut and R.J. Clark

A receipt will be issued on receipt of payment.