

Laurette De Jager¹

Visual Art Courses

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The Human Gaze

Portrait Painting Course in two parts:

In 2018, I offered a very ambitious Portrait Course aiming at having each student produce 6 drawings, 6 A3 paintings and 2 Large paintings over the year. Apart from having a number of very anxious students, the course proved successful, even though hardly anyone managed to reach the 2 large works, whilst everyone happily painted away on the 6 smaller works over the year. The proof however is in the proverbial pudding: two of my students managed to have work selected as part of the ***Rust en Vrede Portrait Competition*** Top 200, one of these lucky ones went all the way to the ***Top 40!***

With the eye on encouraging similar success amongst the willing, I offered a similar, though less demanding Portrait Course in 2022, which produced no less than 2 students, and myself going through to the second round of adjudication. I am now offering this course online via distance learning to interested students:

¹ MVA Unisa 2020 *Cum Laude*

Background:

I am a teaching artist, who completed my Master of Visual arts degree through Unisa in 2020, graduating *Cum Laude*. I also hold a NHD in jewellery design and have been teaching drawing, design and painting from my home-based studio in Boston, Bellville since 2009. My aim with the Visual Arts Course is to teach, mentor and inspire aspiring artists (from beginners to advanced) to grow in technique, as well as concept, all while doing so in a relaxed atmosphere. The ultimate goal is to teach without the student feeling pressured to perform, you will learn while having fun. The class group learn an equal amount from each other, and the environment provides a safe space to develop your skills.

How the Course works:

Every year I offer a course comprising of 30 weeks – The Course will be split into two semester courses: The first (15 Weeks) focusing on drawing and composition in portrait art and the second on colour theory and portrait painting techniques.

Teaching takes place online, via You Tube and includes 4 online tutoring sessions / Semester on a Monday evening at 18h30 on Zoom.

The Semester / Year Course will consist of a theory lesson via Zoom, providing background to the theme, technique or concept being taught during the semester, the project will be discussed, some conceptual brainstorming will occur, where after each student will work on the project and schedule feedback sessions on Zoom during the semester.

Terms and Conditions:

Once you have registered and paid your course fees / first instalment (for the Year /Semester) I will send the first of a series of Project briefs via WhatsApp and You Tube, hereafter mentoring will continue via Zoom/You Tube through demonstration videos for the duration of the Semester / Year.

Feedback sessions are scheduled during teaching weeks on Mondays **evenings 18h30 – 19h15 via Zoom.**

Notice Period:

All Course fees are payable in advance.

Should you opt for the monthly payment plan you will remain liable for the full course fees as the course fee covers the program and the intellectual property that goes along with it and should therefore not be seen as attendance fees.

Fees:

I believe in rewarding commitment, therefore students who commit to the full year course receive a reduced rate, as opposed to students who only enroll for a semester at a time.

Course Fee per **Year**: **R 7 800 for 30 weeks / year**
Payable in Twelve (12) instalments (January – December) **R 650 / month**

Course Fee per **Semester**: **R 4 500 for 15 weeks / semester**
Payable in Six (6) instalments **R750 / month** (January – June / July - December)

Payment options:

Year Program: R 7 800 payable once-off.
Or R 650 payable in advance on the first day of the month for 12 months

Semester Program: R 4 500 payable once-off
Or R 760 payable in advance on the first day of the month for 6 consecutive months

Fees become payable once I have confirmed your registration in the course.

Feedback times:

Four Monday evening sessions / Year via Zoom 18h30 to 19h15
Eight Monday evening sessions / Year via Zoom 18h30 to 19h15

Art materials:

Art materials needed for each term's project will be communicated along with the brief for the project:

Art materials can be bought from the following suppliers – they do not keep a standard list of materials for my students, so I would advise that you copy and paste the list in the brief and request a quote via email, before deciding where to purchase:

The Deckle Edge: hello@deckleedge.co.za
021 180 4442
13 Brickfield Road, Salt River

Canvas:

I generally do not encourage working on anything other than Blond Obeché wooden frames and double gesso Cotton Duck canvas.

<http://www.eandtcavasses.co.za/what-is-cotton-duck-canvas-2137.html>

I recommend contacting Bronwyn Macklin:

ETH Canvas: bronwyn@ethcanvas.co.za
071 528 8815
9 Barron St, Woodstock, Cape Town,

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This year will focus on the technical principles of Drawing, Composition, Colour and Painting as they relate to portraiture:

Semester One: Mixed media drawing in portraiture.

The first semester will concentrate on Drawing and Composition principles. Students will learn the basic design principles as they relate to creating a balanced and intriguing composition. Some colour theory principles will be applicable as drawing will be taught in mixed media and soft pastel, relating to using colour in order to generate interesting flesh tones on a mixed media ground. The objective will be for each student to produce at least one, but preferably two large scale (no smaller than a half sheet 56cm x 76cm) pastel and / or mixed media drawings over the 16-week course.

Semester Two: Colour Theory and Acrylic painting as underpainting.

The second semester will concentrate on Colour Theory and painting principles. Students will learn how to use complimentary and split complementary underpainting (in acrylic) to enliven flesh tones which will later be painted in oils. Two formats will be painting first in acrylic using grisaille / brunaille / verdaille on format 1 and complimentary pure hues on the second format. I usually teach the acrylic painting component during the first half of the course to allow work to dry faster during wet Capetonian winters. The objective will be for each student to produce at least two large scale (80cm x 60cm maximum) portraits over the 16 week course.

Laurette de Jager Visual Art Courses does not offer any accreditation, the outcomes of the course are not evaluated. However, a high level of commitment and technical growth is expected. **The objective of my art classes is to stimulate your own creativity, the main objective remains to create a relaxed creative atmosphere wherein artists can share their passion for the creative with likeminded individuals!**

To Register, kindly complete online form here:

<https://forms.gle/641pZMcJrniAu2eU6>