

**THEORETICAL-PRACTICAL COURSE ON
ANCIENT PAINTING TECHNIQUES:
FRESCO PAINTING**

Proposal and coordination by Ennia Visentin and Trees Knaapen

Decoration on wet “fresco” plaster is one of the most ancient and diffused painting techniques in the world.

Fresco painting, made high-level techniques, is present formerly with Minoan civilization in Crete. Through books got to us, we have detailed information about fresco techniques used by Greek and Roman: Plutarco, Vitruvio and Plinio wrote about it.

Fresco is a painting technique which consists in painting on wet plaster (intonachino) mostly made by slaked lime and sand (it follows the name “fresco”).

Natural pigments are used and diluted only with water.

Colors get into plaster, water evaporates and, through a chemical process, the colors crystallize together with plaster.

In this way brightness and transparency in colors are increased, also compactness and durability in the whole pictorial support. For his big expressive character and the fast execution, this painting technique and can be re-proposed also for modern decoration

During the course (two different techniques will be treated, the one used by Giotto (slake lime and sand) and the Roman way (slaked lime and “marmorino”)

Our workshops preview a full week dedicated to the theoretical and practical aspects of fresco painting.

During your stay guided visits will be organized to the most prestigious villas of the region, which are full of beautiful frescos of famous artists of the past like Giambattista Tiepolo, Veronese, Bellunello, Pordenone etc.

This workshop allows the participants to do by themselves all the different steps like: arriccio, incisione, spolvero and painting with pigments.

The course takes place from Monday till Friday, with 2 teachers at your disposal for 8 hours a day. It's meant to whoever is interested in learning this antique techniques, also for those without any painting experience.

FRESCO WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Monday:

Workshop presentation
Theory lesson with visual support
Fresco techniques: history, technique and materials.
Study and full scale detailed compositional rendering
Preparing of the 'Arriccio' (base coat)

Tuesday:

Preparing of the colors
Preparing of the 'Intonachino' (actual painting coat)
Transferring the cartoon to the intonaco by Pouncing.
Painting exercises for affresco.

Wednesday:

Mezzo fresco finishing
Study and execution of the cartoon for the next painting
Guided visit to historical palazzi with fresco's.

Thursday:

Preparing of the "Intonachino" for the next frescopanel
Transferring the cartoon to the intonaco by Trading
Painting exercises for affresco.

Friday

Painting exercises.
Finishing 'a secco'
Guided cultural visit.

Trees Knaapen was born in The Netherlands, after secondary school she got her degree into interdisciplinal art at the Art Academy in Groningen. Following she did an Erasmus study change with the Nuova Accademia Di Belle Arti (NABA) a Milano.

She obtained a master in antique painting techniques at the Higher Institute of Decoration in Kapelle (Belgio), among others the fresco technique.

Since more than 10 years she is working and living in Italy.

www.semidarte.com

Ennia Visentin was born in Pordenone in Italy, after her secondary school she specialized in antique techniques of decoration and since several years she works in decorating and restoring wallpaintings.

Since 1996 she teaches decorative art and “trompe l'oeil” for artistic-architectonical restoration classes and training-specialization courses for decorators at:

Professional Institute “ESMEA” (Udine) – “Free Accademy of Cividale” (Cividale-Ud), Craftsmen's Association (Treviso, Asolo e Montebelluna) – Craftsmen's Association (Pordenone) - Nuova Koprik, Loreggia (Padova), KeimFarben, (Diedorf/Germania – Italian seat in Bolzano), Decom, Costa Volpino (Bergamo), “Venice European Centre for the Trades and Professions of the Conservation of Architectural Heritage” Island of San Servolo (Venice and Villa Fabris Thiene, Vicenza).

www.enniart.it

HOLIDAY RESORTS FOR FRESCOWORKSHOP

Valmareno di Follina (Treviso)

Region: Veneto

www.visitando.it www.primaveraprosecco.it

Valmareno di Follina is a village in the hills of Treviso, not far from the motorway A27 exit Vittorio Veneto Nord. The train station of Conegliano Veneto is at 20 minutes, and from Treviso or Venice airport by car is less than an hour.

There is also a lot of history hidden in the ancient roman streets and the medieval buildings of the town.

Valmareno di Follina is settled in the Treviso area, on typical reliefs and hills, which contain natural, artistical and historical rich heritage: the famous and prestigious Venetian Villas, works of Andrea Palladio and the St. Maria's Abbey in Follina with the 13th century Cistercian Monastery, are only an example to describe the local splendor.

The place offers you a peaceful atmosphere, which is typical for this rural area.

The wide green valley, where the house is located, and the surrounding mountains will charm you and invite you to undertake long walks on paths that have been laid out in recent times.

The Fresco and workshop will take place in a typical 18th century residence: “B&B “Cris” has recently been carefully refurbished to bring it up-to-date, while at the same time respecting the original design by keeping features such as original wooden ceilings.

The location of the house and the distribution of the rooms, with bathrooms, make sure that you will spend pleasant holidays surrounded by silence and peaceful nature.

Spilimbergo (Pordenone)

Region: Friuli Venezia Giulia

www.prospilimbergo.org

Spilimbergo, a village of ancient origin, is situated on the right bank of the river Tagliamento.

Spilimbergo gained great splendor during the Medieval and Renaissance Periods.

The emperor Charles V and the French King Henry III stopped over in the town.

It has rich palaces, ancient churches and typical old streets and all them tell about the town history through big works of art and well-preserved monuments.

The Cathedral and the Castle have a peculiar charm.

Frescos, and antique decorations adorn walls, ceilings, arches,... and thanks to the artists' works of art Spilimbergo is today one of the most beautiful towns in the region.

Several cultural appointments are frequent during the year, and particular famous are mosaic expositions.

Home to the renowned Mosaic School, Spilimbergo is specially known as "The Town of Mosaic".

Founded officially in 1922, the school has inherited the great mosaic tradition of Rome, Byzantium, Venice and Aquileia. Nowadays Spilimbergo is the capital of ornamental mosaic for floors and walls decorations.

Fresco's course will be take place in Mosaic School's workshop, near from apartments for participating.

The residence, in the historical centre of the town, has several comfortable apartments with one, two or three beds, all with bathrooms and kitchen.

An indoor restaurant is open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

CONDITIONS AND COSTS

There is no age limit; minors are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

In 2010 we propose three different periods for the fresco workshop:

. 20 – 26th June (Valmarino di Follina)

. 18 – 24th July (Valmarino di Follina)

. 29th August- 4th September (Spilimbergo)

The workshop will be held from Monday till Friday.

Sunday arrival and departure at Saturday morning after breakfast.

The workshop cost is € 950,00= **and includes:**

- A shuttle service from Treviso and Venice airport,
- Welcome dinner

- Double bedroom with bathroom, breakfast and lunch for six days
- 2 half day excursions
- 4 days of practical lessons
- The use of all materials included.(that will be restituted at the end of the week)

exluded:

- travel to and from Italy
- dinners

Info and inscriptions: www.semidarte.com