The Florence Academy of Art
New York Metro

Drawing
- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Painting
- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Anatomy
- Year-long Course
The Florence Academy of Art
- New York Metro Campus at Mana Contemporary -

The Florence Academy of Art at Mana Contemporary is an exact replica of the original school in Florence. Students work from life under natural north light through the three-year, full time Certificate curriculum in Drawing & Painting, or as part of the intensive workshops.

Academic Director, Jordan Sokol, and principal instructors, Amaya Gurpide and Richard Greathouse, are all painters trained in the philosophy, language of instruction, and methodology guiding the Florence studio.

As a result, students from the New York Metro campus who wish to study abroad may transfer seamlessly into the same level in the program in Florence or at the academy’s branch in Malmö, Sweden, or spend a trimester or more of study as an exchange student in one or both campuses abroad, without experiencing any difference whatsoever in methodology, curriculum or teaching style. This offers students a truly unique experience to study internationally and with a variety of Florence Academy instructors.

Cover image: Jordan Sokol, Tennelid
Clockwise: Mana Contemporary
Richard Greathouse, Self Portrait
Amaya Gurpide, Ares
Daniel Graves, Founder and Director

Founded in 1991 by Daniel Graves, The Florence Academy of Art is one of the oldest schools today to offer classical training in the visual arts. Our mission for the past 25 years has been to provide the highest level of instruction in classical methods of drawing, painting and sculpture for students wishing to pursue careers as professional artists in the Realist tradition.

As inspiration, the academy derives its curriculum from the classical-realist tradition rooted in the 19th century and best exemplified by the French Academies. Emphasis is placed on the close observation of the material world, direct study of works of the Old Masters, and a deep, practical understanding of the materials and methods of the artist.

Ultimately, through the acquisition of strong technical skills, our students should come to possess creative self-confidence, and the ability to concentrate on what they want to say, follow their inspiration, and create a work that is both deeply personal and universally relevant.
When students enter the Florence Academy, they are assigned a north light studio space and settle into a rhythm of working that will remain constant throughout their three years of study. They spend half day drawing or painting the figure, and half day in their studios on specific exercises. Working only from life they learn to view their subjects with accuracy, to understand the complexities of each anatomical detail, in order to draw or paint them skillfully.

Eventually, they explore gesture, the psychology of the sitter, and composition, while strengthening their individual voices. They begin to ask the questions they will face as emerging artists: what do I want to paint? Why? What emotion do I want to convey? What areas of technical competence must I strengthen to articulate my vision? Students ultimately develop more than technique, but the skill to transpose what is meaningful to them into their art.

_The Florence Academy of Art is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. Accreditation of New York Metro is pending._

Certificate Program: Drawing & Painting

**CURRICULUM**

Bargue Drawing       Figure Painting
Cast Drawing          Still Life
Figure Drawing        Portraiture
Cast Painting

**WEEKLY COURSES**

Anatomy
Ecorché Sculpture
Art History

**SPECIAL LECTURES**

Materials - the properties of pigments, oils and varnishes
Technical demonstrations of paint grinding and canvas preparation
Florence Academy Alumni

FAA TEACHERS: 100%
Teachers at The Florence Academy of Art are all trained in the philosophy, methodology and language of instruction espoused by the academy. The majority are graduates of its Painting or Sculpture programs. We begin forming our teachers by selecting our most talented students to become student assistants. Eventually, they advance to become principal instructors and program directors.

WORKING ARTISTS: 70%
We count 209 graduates who either 1) have had solo exhibitions or appear regularly in group shows in galleries, cultural associations, and art fairs, 2) have participated in and placed in and/or won art competitions like the Portrait Society of America’s Annual Competition, the National Sculpture Society, the British Portrait Prize, the A.M. Travelling Grant (Australia) and Art Renewal Center International Salon; 3) appear in art publications like Fine Art Connoisseur, and International Artist; 4) have formal gallery representation, or 5) paint almost exclusively on commission.

TEACHING: 30%
There are a recorded 57 graduates who are currently teaching the methodology they learned at The Florence Academy of Art in a variety of academic settings: 26 have started their own atelier style schools similar but on a smaller scale to the Florence Academy in the U.S., Italy, Britain and other cities in Europe, or are employed by colleges in the U.S.; 25 are employed by The Florence Academy of Art as program directors or principal instructors.

Clockwise: Hege Haugen, La Sonata
Matthew Almy, Brass Pot
Louise Fenne, Augury
Kevin Gorges, Portrait of Ian Islop
Students who apply to The Florence Academy of Art seek the language of Velasquez, Rembrandt, Titian, and the tools to convey their ideas with confidence in oil or clay. Our students do not idly copy their subjects but instead learn to translate nature in a way that is both anatomically accurate and artistically beautiful.

There are currently 100 students enrolled in the Florence program, and 26 students in Mölndal, from 35 different countries. Enrollment at the New York Metro Area branch will be around 20 students. All levels (beginning, intermediate and advanced) will work together under one roof and alongside the private studios of their instructors. Not only will this allow students to benefit from daily direct instruction and critique, but also from watching the professional artist at work. This relationship, developed over many hours spent together, is significant to the general atmosphere of the studio. We consider this experience to be fundamental to the student’s development.

The academy’s location at Mana Contemporary provides an unparalleled environment for creating and experiencing art. Students will be part of a large and vivacious art scene within Mana that includes artists, galleries, exhibition spaces, and opportunities to meet and dialogue with the public. Its proximity to Manhattan allows students to visit New York’s important museums and galleries.
Florence Academy Alumni

Clockwise:
Nick Alm, Two Lovers
Ulrich Suberg, Tranquil Reader
Vitaliy Shtanko, Girl with Poppy Wreath
Ramiro Sanchez, What the Thunder Said
Florence Academy Alumni

Clockwise:
Stephen Bauman, The Violinist
Daniela Astone, Le Profughe
Jura Bedic, Golden Onions
Jordan Sokol, Head of Girl

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