

ADULT LEARNING OIL FIGURE PAINTING COURSE: A STUDY OF GUIDO RENI



Tutor: Zarahn Tūwharetoa Southon
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Saint Sebastian
oil on canvas, 1670 × 1276 mm, circa 1625

AUCKLAND
ART GALLERY
TOI OTĀMAKI

COURSE BRIEF

This course will introduce students to oil painting and life drawing, using Italian artist Guido Reni's painting *Saint Sebastian*, 1625 as a starting point. Using the same methods taught to Reni at the Accademia degli Incamminati, students will copy from high quality prints of his painting, study from life models, and learn the fundamental life-drawing techniques of proportion, structure, light, tone and texture to create their own masterpiece.

In addition to the technical processes of oil painting, students will gain a deeper understanding of the context surrounding Reni's artistic practice. Lectures will focus on the greater historical context of the High Renaissance, with exclusive behind-the-scenes tours guided by Gallery curators.

Painting and drawing demonstrations will be given to students throughout, as well as critical feedback aimed at facilitating each student's individual needs and styles.

COURSE OUTLINE

Sessions 1–3

Wed 11, 18 & 25 October

- Students will meet the course tutor and enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour of artworks in the Gallery's collection delivered by one of the Gallery's curators.
- Students will learn the preparatory steps for creating a painting: underdrawings, colour washes and primary layers

Sessions 4–6

Wed 1, 8 & 15 November

- Students will delve deeper into the techniques taught at Accademia degli Incamminati and the Académie Julian, learning about the transfer of drawing to painting, monochromatic oil underpaintings, the *grigio / grisaille* method, and more.
- One session will be dedicated to life drawing. Students will be introduced to traditional plumb line and triangulation compositional methods as well as techniques for achieving structure and light.

Sessions 7–10

Wed 22, 29 November & 6, 13 December

- In the final weeks of the course, students will advance their painting through paint layering and by finessing skills in depicting the effects of light and shadow.
- There will also be a dedicated session to painting a model from life to further develop observational skills.
- Students will finish the course having learnt key realistic oil painting skills and a finished work of art to take home.

***Please note that some activities may take place at different times during the course due to staff availability and class requirements.**