

Ciao, Italia!

Plein Air Sketching & Painting Workshop October 3 - 12, 2025

Join Kirah Van Sickle for this small group plein air travel-art adventure to Italy. October is a beautiful time to explore. Our itinerary begins with two nights in Rome, 6 nights in Spello, in the heart of Umbria, with day trips to an array of beautiful hill towns, including Assisi, Montefalco, and Perugia, local wineries, and plenty of painting sites. We will visit rich cultural art sites including the National Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia in Rome, the Museum of Modern Art in Rome, and the Etruscan site of Carsulae.



The workshop is suitable for beginner to advanced student-artists and companions. We will build confidence working plein air, sketching, art journaling, and small, alla prima painting. We will take inspiration from the art and history of Rome, and the charming medieval hill towns of Umbria.

Limit 14 (non-painting companions welcome)

For all levels. Sketching and painting in your preferred medium: can be watercolor, gouache, acrylic, pastel and oil (water soluble encouraged) welcome. Or free to focus on sketching/art journaling. You will receive daily prompts, demos, handouts as well as one on one attention. There will be opportunities for informal show & tell sessions.

- Oct 2 Depart for Italy (if arriving from US)
- Oct 3 Arrive Rome/late afternoon museum stop/Welcome Dinner (please plan to arrive in the morning)
- Oct 4 Private guided tour at National Roman Museum - Palazzo Massimo/Sketching at Palatine Hill/dinner on own
- Oct 5 Depart for Spello/Stop at the ancient Etruscan site Carsulae/hotel checkin/Welcome food and wine gathering
- Oct 6 Art in Spello/Villa Moasici/sketching/painting in town/lunch included/dinner on own
- Oct 7 Orvieto/Civita di Bagnoregio
- Oct 8 Montefalco sketching/museum visit/Antonelli winery cooking class/tour/tasting and meal
- Oct 9 Sketching/painting Villa Fidelia/free time for hiking, shopping/lunch on own/dinner on own
- Oct 10 Assisi tour/sketching/painting/stop at Sportoletti Winery/dinner included
- Oct 11 Check out/transfer to Rome Airport Hilton Hotel/dinner included
- Oct 12 Depart Italy

Topics:

Plein air sketching techniques, art journaling, loose watercolor sketching, landscape composition, working with a limited palette, gouache/acrylic/oil alla prima studies, exploring color characteristics, value contrasts and color temperature - all ways to build confidence in working outdoors. Our subjects include still life, botanicals, landscape, architecture, patterns in nature and the urban setting, and ways to “capture” the Italian light.

For artists, we will be packing light! A more detailed supply list will be provided upon receiving deposit

Our walking and museum tours, as well as meals cover pivotal works in art history, the cultural history of Italy, and the culinary and wine history of the region.

Accommodations: In Rome, our hotel is the River Palace Hotel a block from Piazza del Popolo. This is a beautiful boutique hotel with classic interiors and modern amenities. It's the perfect location for our time in Rome. In Spello, we are at the charming boutique hotel: Albergo Il Cacciatore with lovely views of the Umbrian hills and vineyards, and in the heart of the medieval "old town."

Our last night is in Rome at the Hilton Rome Airport. The hotel is a wonderful opportunity to rest up before the next morning's departure. It is linked to the terminals and a convenient walk to Terminal 2 and all US-bound returns. For those that stay on in Italy or Europe, see below for info on regional airport/transfer if other than Rome Fiumicino.

Pricing: Artist/Companion:
Double occupancy US\$ 4250/3800
Single occupancy US\$ +750

Rates per person land only, does not include air.
\$600 deposit due April 30, 2025 (if cancel before August 1, full refund less \$100)
For more information and registration, contact:
Kirah @ 910.233.7507 or kirahart@yahoo.com

Trip insurance is highly recommended and an available add-on. I recommend my booking agent with AAA Raleigh for assistance in flight planning or adding pre or post-workshop travel, and travel insurance coverage:

Sandra Horton at sdhorton@acg.aaa.com.

I am happy to advise, as well as recommendations and must-sees. I have traveled fairly extensively in Italy, Croatia, France, and beyond. An add-on to the trip, especially this time of year would be a treat.

What is Included?

9 nights hotel accommodations
7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners
Private guided cultural history and art tours including Basilica of St. Francis
Cooking class/wine tasting/tour/dinner
Roundtrip Airport Transfers; transfers to regional sites
Taxes

Additional Cost: Meals on your own, art materials, any alcohol not included in group dinners or wine tasting events, souvenirs.

Transportation: Airport transfer will be coordinated for you to the hotel in Rome upon arrival on the 3rd. The group will have private van driver between Rome and Spello, and each day for regional town visits and tours. (For those arriving early, pickup can be arranged through the hotel or taxi at your expense.) If you plan to stay on in Europe, the regional Assisi-Perugia airport offers convenient flights in the EU and beyond. Sandra at AAA can assist with any flights for you, or check Ryan Air app for inexpensive regional hops.

Cancellation:

Your deposit is refundable, less \$100, until August 1, 2025.
No refunds after August 1, 2025. Full payment is due then.

I strongly advise you to purchase travel insurance to cover your travel and the cost of the workshop and lodging. I use Allianz through AAA. Again, Sandra Horton at AAA Raleigh can assist. It's relatively inexpensive and offers peace of mind, especially if have flight delays, bag loss, and offers primary medical coverage in case of injury or illness. If, for some unforeseen reason, I were not be able to complete the workshop, I would return the unspent portion of the fee that covers the workshop but would not be liable for your travel or for expenses already paid such as lodging deposits.

Registration for October 3 - 12, 2025 Ciao, Italy Plein Air Workshop with Kirah Van Sickle:

Please complete and mail your registration & deposit to Kirah Van Sickle, 931 Royal Bonnet Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405 or email to kirahart@yahoo.com. Venmo @KIRAH-VANSICKLE or PayPal same email.

WEBSITE: www.kirahfineart.com

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Mobile Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Passport # _____ Country _____

*Please mail a check for a deposit in the amount of \$600 made payable to Kirah Van Sickle due by **March 31**.

Those wishing to pay with a credit card please mail your registration or call Kirah directly at 910-233-7507. Do not email financial info or credit card numbers. I use Square for credit card payments.

CC type _____ Card # _____ Exp _____ Sec Code _____

- I understand I will be asked to sign a liability waiver for the days I will be joining the group.
- I will have a roommate. Roommate's name _____
- I want a single room.
- Please assign me a roommate if one is available.

Date you plan to arrive Rome: _____

Dietary requests: _____

Other physical/health concerns: _____

***Accessibility:** There will be some walking daily in medieval hill towns, on cobbled streets and sidewalks, steps, uneven ground and pavement and on and off the shuttle van. Unfortunately, in many areas and buildings, accessibility may be limited. Plan on comfortable walking shoes, and low heels.

Dress Code: In general, casual comfortable, layers for cool evenings, a painting shirt or apron when in the field. In St. Francis Basilica, and other churches, no bare shoulders. No formal attire needed.

Art Supplies: Travel and art make for a fun combo, but not if you load up on excessive supplies. Kirah will provide a materials list for easy packing, mobility, and fun mark-making. She will also provide a general packing list of clothing and any extras for the group.