

Ciao, Italia!

Plein Air Sketching Workshop
October 2 - 10, 2026



Travel and art have been at the core of my life since the age of six. My goal is to offer unique, off-the-beaten path travel adventures that inspire and boost creativity. Whether the first time to Italy, or seasoned Italophile, I guarantee you'll experience something new. Join me for this small group plein air travel-art adventure. October is a beautiful time to explore. Our itinerary begins with two nights in Rome and 5 nights in the heart of Umbria. With day trips to an array of beautiful hill towns, local wineries, and plenty of sketching. We will visit rich cultural art sites, museum Rome, and the ancient archaeological 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 quick color studies in watercolor, gouache. 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 1 Depart for Italy (if arriving from US)
- Oct 2 Arrive Rome/late afternoon museum stop/Welcome Dinner (please plan to arrive in the morning)
- Oct 3 Off the beaten path Rome art sites with sketching/lunch included/dinner on own
- Oct 4 Transfer to Spello, Umbria with visit to Carsulae, ancient Etruscan archaeological site/dinner included
- Oct 5 Art in Spello/sketching/Villa Mosaici/aperitivo & wine tasting/dinner on own
- Oct 6 Morning in Spello/lunch on own/Corciano visit/sketching/dinner included
- Oct 7 Waterfall/Bevagna/Cooking Class/wine tasting
- Oct 8 Perugia - visit to weaving atelier, art museum, lunch on own/farewell dinner in Spello included
- Oct 9 Check out/transfer to Rome Airport Hilton Hotel
- Oct 10 Depart Italy

Topics:

Kirah shares insights to plein air sketching and watercolor techniques, art journaling, landscape composition, working with a limited palette, exploring color relationships, value contrasts - all the ways to build confidence in working outdoors, and with expressive and bold color. Subjects include still life, botanicals, landscape, architecture, patterns in nature and the urban setting, and ways to "capture" the Italian light.

For artists, plan to pack 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 and culinary history of the regions.

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 to kick off our Italy adventure. In Spello, we are at the charming boutique hotel: Albergo Il Cacciatore with lovely views of the Umbrian hills and olive groves, in the heart of the beautiful medieval "old town."

Our last night is in Rome at the Hilton Rome Airport, linked to the terminal via sky walks, a convenient ~8 min walk to Terminal 2 and all US-bound returns. For those that stay on in Italy or adventures beyond, I can share insights and recommendations for regional airport/transfer other than Rome Fiumicino.

Pricing: Artist/Companion:

Double occupancy	US\$ 4450/3900	Rates per person land only, does not include air.
Single occupancy	US\$ +750	

A \$600 deposit holds your spot(s). Refundable less \$100 until April 30. Final payment due July 1.

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 use Allianz, with several other options. If you would like to work with an agent for travel/air/insurance planning, I work with AAA and happy to recommend an agent.

Want to add on to your trip?

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

What is Included?

- 8 nights hotel accommodations
- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunches, 5 dinners
- Private guided cultural history and art tours; Cooking class/wine tastings
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers; transfers to regional sites
- Taxes

Additional Cost: Airfare, meals on your own, art materials, gratuities, 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 2nd. 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.

Cancellation:

Full payment is due 90 days before trip start.
I strongly advise purchasing travel insurance. I use Allianz. There are other equally good options. 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, 2026 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 **April 30.**

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.