

Thanks to a very generous grant from the UVA Art Scholars program, I was able to take my painting education to new heights and new places. I put the money toward studying abroad at the International School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture in Montecastello, Italy. Montecastello is a very small (population: 200) town that is nestled into what used to be a castle in the rolling hills of Umbria. While I was there, I had the privilege of learning about the art of drawing and painting from US faculty who teach at Pennsylvania Academy of Fine arts, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, and Pratt.

I dedicated a lot of my time overseas to honing my technical drawing and painting abilities so that I could advance my abstract paintings that I make at UVA. When in Italy, especially when one has a view from a mountain side, painting the landscape becomes inevitable. It took a while to settle down and really discover what it was that I wanted to paint because everywhere you look, looks like a beautiful painting. In addition to studying the landscape, I also spent time with Brian Booth Craig studying the art of drawing the figure.

Not only was I able to study and create my own work there, but I was also able to visit many of the famous museums, chapels, and galleries that reside in Italy. I was told by many people that you cannot truly be an artist until you have traveled to Italy and see the art there. After seeing the David, The Sistine Chapel, Rafael's transfiguration, and countless others, it is hard to disagree with those people. It is a truly energizing and inspiring feeling to be so close to so much art history.

I have always been a firm believer that in order to break the rules you must first know how to follow them which is why I consider my technical representative ability to be of the highest importance even though I am working abstractly. That is why it was so beneficial for me

to study with these great traditional teachers. I also was able to broadly expand my “bank of inspiration” since I was in such a foreign place with artists with whom I had never worked.

I am truly grateful for this wonderful experience and I absolutely cannot sing my praises to the Art Scholars program enough. They are really onto something big and necessary at UVA and I am a firm believer that they are going to benefit a ton of really great artists in the future by supplying them with the funds they need.





INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Painting, Drawing and Sculpture
Umbria, Italy

06057 Montecastello di Vibio PG Perugia ITALY

Galleria ISA

(in Piazza Garibaldi, e Palazzo Pelligrini)

Mostra

di Pittura, Scultura e Disegno

degli studenti e insegnanti della sessione di giugno, 2012



Giovedì 5 luglio dalle ore 18:00 alle 20:00

Studenti

(Galleria ISA P.zza Garibaldi)

Erin Asta

David Cook

Katherine Droppa

Madeleine Finley

Christine Hoepfner

Akky Leurink

Paola Lopéz

Adrian Montoya

Sasha Sereda

Alexandra Thomson-Moore

Insegnanti

(P.zza Pelligrini)

Brian Craig

Samuel Evensen

Celia Reisman

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