

THE ART OF THE PORTRAIT[®]

NATIONAL PORTRAIT & FIGURATIVE ARTISTS' CONFERENCE



Pre-Conference Workshops: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thursday, May 8

9:00am-4:00pm

(FULL)

Watercolor Portraits: The Keys to Freshness - Mary Whyte

Join watercolor artist Mary Whyte for a live hands-on workshop working directly with the model. Learn tips for creating works that are luminous and breathe with life.

Thursday, May 8

9:00am-4:00pm

(FULL)

The Portrait in Bas-Relief Sculpture - Alicia N. Ponzio

Students will work in oil-based clay on a prepared surface, learning the basic principles of relief sculpture. Alicia will cover how to prepare the materials, drawing on the clay to compose the image, blocking in the major forms, and turning the forms. We will not cast the piece during the workshop, but students are encouraged to do so on their own.

Thursday, May 8

9:00am-4:00pm

(FULL)

Hatchmark with the Head - Dan Thompson

The artist's ability to conceive hatchmark with striking expertise is a must in drawing. In this one day intensive, we'll explore mark making strategies derived from masterworks and their potential impact in our own creativity. All media and all levels of ability are welcome.

The Art of the Portrait Opens: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thursday, May 8

4:00pm-7:30pm

Name Badge Pick-Up and On-Site Registration

Grand Opening of Exhibit Hall - Art Manufacturers and Services

Thursday, May 8

4:00pm-5:00pm

Welcome Reception for First-Time Attendees

Thursday, May 8 4:30pm-7:30pm	Face Off: Michael Bergt, Ali Cavanaugh, Michelle Dunaway, Ruth Fitton, Rose Frantzen, Quang Ho, Jeffrey Larson, Huihan Liu, Kevin Macpherson, Dominique Medici, Paul Newton, Timothy Rees, Mario Robinson, Oliver Sin, Daniel Sprick, Adrienne Stein, Louise Weir, and Shane Wolf Observe eighteen featured artists, in groups of three, demonstrate in a variety of mediums including oil, watercolor, charcoal, egg tempera and clay. <i>The completed paintings will be part of a silent auction held on Friday at 6:30pm benefiting the scholarship program.</i>
Thursday, May 8 7:30pm-10:00pm	The Next Generation featuring Phoebe Stewart Carter, Emma Rach-Syslak, and Elizabeth Ralph-Smith In an open painting session, observe as these three talented young artists share their approach to the portrait. <i>The completed paintings will be part of a live auction held on Friday at 6:30pm, benefiting the scholarship program.</i>

Friday, May 9, 2025

Friday, May 9 8:45am-9:00am	Welcome – Michael Shane Neal
Friday, May 9 9:00am-9:45am	Keys to Understanding: The Mouth, Nose, and Eyes - Robert Liberace, Alicia N. Ponzio, and Dan Thompson Join these three expert artists as they each describe a different facial feature, sharing their unique approaches to capturing a sense of mastery.
Friday, May 9 9:45am-10:00am	Break
Friday, May 9 10:00am-12:30pm	Bringing Your Creative Vision to Life - Michelle Dunaway Watch as Michelle Dunaway completes the final touches on a complex studio painting, while presenting a comprehensive overview of her process—starting from creating life studies and gathering field references, to developing the larger studio work step by step.
Friday, May 9 12:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch Break Book Signings Portfolio Critiques

Friday, May 9 2:00pm-4:00pm	Breakout Sessions (Select only one)
Friday, May 9 2:00pm-4:00pm	Dual Visions: A Portrait Demonstration in Color and Structure - Quang Ho and Kevin Macpherson <p>Witness the power of contrasting artistic approaches in this portrait demonstration by two accomplished artists. One will focus on a system of color, and the other will concentrate on seeing the entire structure. As they work side by side, you will see how these two distinct methods complement each other.</p>
Friday, May 9 2:00pm-4:00pm (FULL)	Modern Watercolor: Techniques on Innovative Surfaces - Ali Cavanaugh <p>New or experienced in watercolor, this hands-on class will guide you through exciting new possibilities as Ali takes you step-by-step through her distinctive, signature techniques, demonstrating how the modern surfaces can push the boundaries and inspire you to see watercolor in a whole new light. <i>(Supply list provided)</i></p>
Friday, May 9 2:00pm-4:00pm (FULL)	Expressive Portrait Drawing from the Model - Oliver Sin <p>The workshop will delve into the fundamentals of drawing portraits, focusing on essential knowledge of shapes, planes of heads, anatomy, value rendering, quick gesture head drawings, and more. <i>(Supply list provided)</i></p>
Friday, May 9 2:00pm-4:00pm (FULL)	The Hand: The Second Portrait - Dan Thompson <p>By blending close observation with historic precedent, we will develop a creative toolkit of visual cues to help you depict expressive and realistic hands. <i>(Supply list provided)</i></p>
Friday, May 9 2:00pm-4:00pm (FULL)	The Value of Color - Dominique Medici, Paul Newton, and Timothy Rees <p>Dive into the world of color through the eyes of three renowned artists, each with their own distinct approach. View their specific color palette, use of hue, saturation and value to evoke emotion, create atmosphere and define their signature styles, including time for questions and answers.</p>
Friday, May 9 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meet the Finalists from The International Exhibit Happy Hour
Friday, May 9 5:30pm-7:30pm	5:30pm: Doors Open for Preview of 6x9 Mystery Art Sale 6:00pm: Sales Begin for 6x9 Mystery Art Sale 6:30pm: Time ends for Silent Auction of Face Off Paintings
Friday, May 9 8:00pm-10:00pm	Parallel Perspectives: A Nude Figure Demo for Portrait Artists – Robert Liberace and Shane Wolf <p>Join us for a unique demonstration where two skilled artists will simultaneously portray the same nude figure. Witness how each artist interprets the form, light, and emotion of the subject in their distinctive style.</p>

Friday, May 9

8:00pm-10:00pm

Free and Open Drawing Studio - Phoebe Stewart Carter, Emma Rach-Syslak, and Elizabeth Ralph-Smith

Instruction and critiques available from Next Generation Guest Artists.

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Saturday, May 10

9:00am-10:00am

Anatomy Essentials: How the Head Connects to the Neck, and More - Shane Wolf

Join Shane Wolf as he breaks down key anatomical points on the skull, neck, shoulder girdle and upper ribcage to help explain capturing head angles and how the head properly connects to its support structures.

Saturday, May 10

10:00am-10:30am

Break

Saturday, May 10

10:30am-12:30pm

Breakout Sessions (Select only one)

Saturday, May 10

10:30am-12:30pm

Mastering Alla Prima: Exploring the Upper Torso and Movement – Huihan Liu (Moderated by Oliver Sin)

In this engaging demonstration, Huihan will share his process and thoughts as he discusses key visual elements such as design, composition placement, and focal points, focusing specifically on the figure's upper torso and movement.

Saturday, May 10

10:30am-12:30pm

(FULL)

Unlock the Potential of the Portrait Sketch in Watercolor – Mario Robinson

Through a live demonstration and hands-on practice, acclaimed watercolor artist Mario Robinson will guide participants in discovering the advantages of using quick sketches over detailed drawings as a foundation for finished pieces. Attendees will learn how to use loose, expressive sketches as an essential tool for planning and creating captivating portraits in watercolor. *(Supply list provided)*

Saturday, May 10

10:30am-12:30pm

(FULL)

Egg Tempera: Rediscovering an Ancient Art – Michael Bergt

Often regarded as a lost art, egg tempera has had several revivals and numerous prominent artists have worked exclusively with the medium. Michael will showcase the versatility and beauty of this timeless medium, including a hands-on guided exercise exploring various cross-hatching techniques that can be used in egg tempera to create smooth gradations and forms. *(Supply list provided)*

Saturday, May 10

10:30am-12:30pm

(FULL)

From the Inside Out – Robert Liberace, Alicia N. Ponzio, and Louise Weir

An exploration of anatomy including clay and paint demonstrations, emphasizing the understanding of planes, structure, and profiles to create accurate and expressive portraits.

Saturday, May 10 10:30am-12:30pm (FULL)	The Fundamentals of Composition - Ruth Fitton, Jeffrey Larson and Kevin Macpherson (Moderated by Dawn Whitelaw) Join three award winning artists as they explore techniques and principles for creating balanced, engaging compositions in their artwork, sharing insights into guiding the viewer's eye and elevating visual storytelling.
Saturday, May 10 12:30pm-2:30pm	Lunch Book Signings Portfolio Critiques
Saturday, May 10 2:00pm-4:30pm	Capturing Youth: The Art of Painting the Child's Portrait - Timothy Rees and Adrienne Stein Watch as Tim and Adrienne delve into the complex yet rewarding process of painting a child's portrait. From capturing the fleeting expressions and delicate features to the playful essence of youth, the artists will navigate the challenges of maintaining the likeness and accuracy while preserving the subject's innocence and energy.
Saturday, May 10 6:00pm-7:00pm	Cocktail Reception
Saturday, May 10 7:00pm-9:30pm	The Gala Banquet and Awards Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Generation Award • Signature Status Awards • The International Awards • Excellence in Fine Art Education – James Gurney • Gold Medal - George Carlson

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Sunday, May 11 9:00am-12:00pm	Which Way to Go? - Rose Frantzen and Scott Burdick (Moderated by Quang Ho) Don't miss this dynamic duo, although they have different approaches, one radiates structure and precision, while the other bursts with movement and emotion— you will see that creativity can flourish through multiple paths.
Sunday, May 11 1:00pm (FULL)	Visit the National Portrait Gallery Buses leave promptly at 1:00pm and return after 6:00pm

Tuition: Member Rate: \$595 and Non-Member Rate: \$695

Virtual: \$495

Pre-Conference workshops are not included in the tuition price and are an additional \$195

For only \$100 more, you can add 90 days of **unlimited re-watch on demand** of all the programs

Cancellation Policy: If your plans change, please notify the Portrait Society of America in writing before February 15, 2025 to receive a full refund. After February 15, 2025, you will receive an educational credit for your tuition less a \$100 cancellation fee. Your educational credit may be applied to future conference or membership dues.