

Portrait Painting Workshop

Rogier Willems

Dates: Sunday 23rd to Saturday 29th August 2026 (6 nights)

You can add extra nights as there are many sites to visit, providing you book in advance!

Sunday 23rd

4pm	Check in
7pm	Welcome drinks and dinner

Monday 24th

8:30am – 9:30am	Italian Breakfast
10am-1pm	Session 1 – Focus on form, proportions, and tone. First, a short keynote about the construction of the head. After that, draw the model in charcoal in 3 small studies: one in a single continuous line, one with geometrical, angular planes and one made only with charcoal stains and a kneaded eraser. Then, on toned paper you draw with white and black chalk, making one completed drawing of the same model in about 1.5 hours. Start very lightly with charcoal, sparingly add white. You practise the construction and placement of the eyes, nose, and mouth. How do you determine proportions, lines, and directions?
1pm-2pm	Lunch
2:30pm – 4:30pm	Session 2 – Rogier will do a quick demo of the set-up and you make one small portrait painting with a limited palette: cadmium red, ultramarine blue, yellow ochre, and mixed white, focussing on tone and construction to create volume.
7pm	Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Tuesday 25th

8:30am – 9:30am	Italian Breakfast
10am-1pm	Session 3 – Mixing Colours First, a short demonstration of the first pass and the mixing possibilities. Make two small portraits of the same model on 1 sheet with blue, carmine, white and ochre from two viewpoints (painters swap places). Only LARGE planes, no detail at all! Practise light-dark contrasts and proportions. Also, the background tone/colour will need your attention now.

1pm-2pm	Lunch
2:30pm – 4:30pm	Session 4 – You make one portrait in the same colours but now with cadmium red and yellow added, which you develop further. We put more emphasis on a complementary colour contrast. Use only a large brush, at least 1cm. Increase the tempo!
6pm	Lecture on Portrait Art According to Rogier
7pm	Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Wednesday 26th

8:30am – 9:30am	Italian Breakfast
10am-1pm	Session 5 – Proportions Painters move two positions clockwise. Today, as far as possible, you make one portrait, we use the full palette now. Emphasis lies on expression and interpretation of the model. First, you briefly explore the model by repeating the singular-line study from day 1. Then take time for the construction of the head and explore the tonality.
1pm-2pm	Lunch
2:30pm – 4:30pm	Session 6 – Continue the portrait focusing on details and brushwork; discover how firm mark-making brushwork can enhance the expression of your painting.
7pm	Dinner at the Country Restaurant 10-minute walk from the Estate (not included in price)

Thursday 27th

8:30am – 9:30am	Italian Breakfast
10am-1pm	Session 7 - Today you start a portrait (of a new model) that you will finish tomorrow. First, briefly make some quick sketches to explore the model. Then make a very small but fast tonal study in burnt sienna, white, and blue. Now we start our final painting, first focussing on the right proportions. We zoom out a little and include probably one hand, so you must think more about composition and the background's negative shape.
1pm-2pm	Lunch
2:30pm – 4:30pm	Session 8 – Once the construction is firm and you fully understand the tonality of the head you start applying the paint in a powerful mark-making colours; use really big strokes. Be bold!
7pm	Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Friday 28th

8:30am – 9:30am	Italian Breakfast
10am-1pm	Session 9 - Today you continue and finish the portrait which you started yesterday. Focus on spatial relationships, dynamics, brushwork, details, and the focal points, and how to handle the background.
1pm-2pm	Lunch
2:30pm – 4:30pm	Session 10 - Time for the details but keep painting in a bold and daring way. Don't avoid risks. We discuss the works after the painting session plenary.
7pm	Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Saturday 29th

8:30am – 9:30am	Italian Breakfast
10am	Check out