



Peter Delahaye (right) in his residence in Venice with Giacomo Pirozzi

Peter Delahaye is an abstract artist, painting from his studio in Venice. He is very experimental in his approach. He is an able watercolourist, and also teaches plein air landscape painting in workshops held in locations such as the Venetian lagoon and the Extremadura in Spain. One participant reckons it's the best watercolor landscape five-day course she has ever taken. He is self-taught and says he has the gift of 'carrying color in his head'. He creates small watercolor and mixed media works on paper (including miniatures), soap designs developed into carpets, and large multi-panels of acrylic. During 2016-2019, Peter has been working on a number of large multiple panel commissions for specific sites. Some of these have been creative wall pieces and headboards for beds. The last four years have seen outdoor painting trips to France, the West Coast of Ireland, different parts of Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

Italian photographer Giacomo Pirozzi was trained as a sociologist. He became a professional photographer in 1990 when he began working for UNICEF in West Africa. Since then he has lived in the Ivory Coast, Kenya, and South Africa. He has traveled and photographed in 150 countries in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. In addition to working with UNICEF and other UN agencies, Pirozzi has been published in numerous magazines, exhibitions, and other publications in many languages and countries. He has also developed a methodology to introduce photography to children living in poverty or distress and has led child photography workshops in more than 60 countries around the world. He is the author of many books and he is represented by Panos Pictures in London, England and presently lives between Tuscany, Italy and Thailand.

Located in a UNESCO World Heritage site in the heart of Oltrarno in Florence, the Tobian Art Gallery is a new space dedicated to Visual Arts. The idea comes from the founder Giacomo Pirozzi, a passionate art lover. Thanks to all his connections with artists and galleries worldwide, he has created an innovative and creative space where cultures meet and people can learn through the international language of arts. Although Contemporary Art and Photography are the main focus, the gallery plans a good selection of publications dedicated to Visual Arts. Additionally, it organizes workshops for children, young people, and adults, including photography workshops.

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Watercolour weeks

2 Art workshops in a Tuscan Home with Peter Delahaye

14 –20 and 21 –27 April 2024



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TEAM

Francesco Martini will be Peter Delahaye's assistant.

Federico Nocentini will be the guests' assistant.

Rolly Luchavez is The Old Stone House manager.

Giacomo Pirozzi will be your host and will try to make your stay as enjoyable as possible!

TOBIAN
ART GALLERY

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There is another plein air painting workshop opportunity on the horizon of Leonardo Da Vinci's hills this coming spring, when the landscape looks at its best. The chosen location will be a small village in the heart of Tuscany.

Giacomo and Rolly are your hosts at The Old Stone House in the village of Porciano, near Vinci. Peter Delahaye will be your painting mentor for the five-day workshop, proposed for 14th – 20th April 2024. We can run a second workshop from the 21st – 27th April 2024, if the first is full.

Tuscany surprises many because of its great diversity of landscapes, its colours and traditional rural life. The vast expanses are a joy to paint. Peter and Francesco have found some marvellous spots to capture details of reflections, foliage, rock formations, endless vistas, urban walls and streets etc. But this year The Old Stone House team want to try something new – to combine traditional watercolour landscape painting with a foray into interpreting these experiences in an abstract way. Although Peter has been mentoring classical watercolour techniques in a variety of landscape settings, his principal output in his own studio in Venice is abstract. Whether abstract art can be taught remains to be seen, but the experience is guaranteed to be full of fun, the odd frustration, and significant learning! Most days will be spent outdoors at different painting sites. At the end of the day, over drinks, there is always a wrap-up to show off the various paintings, talk about the experience, and receive feedback on what additional mentoring might be useful the next day.

When participants sign up with us, we'll send out a useful list of materials to bring which are easy to transport when we do our plein air sessions. It is simple but offers tips for the best quality materials to use. Peter will have a stock of materials available for workshop use.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON PAINTING IN TUSCANY

Where is Porciano and how do I get there?

Porciano is a very small community of only 180 people located in the heart of the region, it belongs to Lamporecchio town (Pistoia province) but it is closer to the beautiful village of Vinci where Leonardo Da Vinci was born. The closest train stations are Empoli and Pistoia both 25 minutes away by taxi or private car. The closest airports are Florence and Pisa both 45 minutes by car.

Does this workshop cater for beginners? What will I learn?

Complete beginners have taken the course and loved it. They go away with paintings they want to frame. Artists will learn how to mix colours, and use their brushes to best effect. You will paint every day outdoors as plein air artists. We will park close to all the painting locations and painting days are organized meticulously to include rest stops, lunch pauses and diverse landscape opportunities. Some painting sites are very close The Old Stone House, while others are 30 minutes away by car.



What have past artists said about Peter Delahaye?

Artists on the workshop have praised Peter's mentoring style and flexibility. He gives demonstrations with participants not for them, which increases the amount of time everyone paints. Everyone appreciates the hands-on attention in the field during the painting challenges. One experienced Canadian plein air artist thought this was the best watercolour course she had gone on.

To see the range of Peter's artistic output go to www.peterdelahaye.com

What is the accommodation like and what does it cost?

The painting workshop is located in a lovely stone house with stunning views over the Tuscan hills. From the beginning of spring to the end of October the house receives mainly guests from Airbnb but since Giacomo and Rolly opened the Tobian Art Gallery in Florence, the house is becoming more and more a meeting point for artists. Each double room has an en suite bathroom. A continental breakfast will be served by Federico, while lunches and dinner will be mostly out in local restaurants. The workshop often becomes a gastronomic adventure as well, tasting wines and local food products typical of the region. The painting workshop with single accommodation is €1490 for six nights including breakfast or €1250 each if sharing a double room. This does not include lunches and dinners out, airfares or personal insurance. All participants will be invited at the Tobian Art Gallery in Florence for the final cocktail.

What would I need to bring with me?

Peter, the artist, will send you a detailed list of what to buy and bring, in terms of artist materials. Getting good quality paper, colours and brushes is essential. He will also provide additional materials free when you are working on exercises, and he'll run a tiny shop with top quality artist products while the workshop is on.

My partner/friend doesn't paint. What could he/she do?

There is a lot that a non-painter can do, such as, photography, Italian cooking classes but the best solution would be to make this a creative week for both of you.

