
Watercolor Workshop with Wendy Artin on the Amalfi Coast

October 10-18, 2024, with optional extension to Naples, October 18-21, 2024



I am honored to be able to propose a week of painting and sketching in one of my favorite places in the world under the leadership of a dear friend and one of the world's most acclaimed painter in watercolor today: Wendy Artin! Based in Rome, Wendy's career has established new benchmarks in the field of representational painting in watercolor. Her work there, which began almost thirty years ago when she arrived as a young adventurer, has ranged from lyrical representations in sepia of the familiar as well as lesser-known landmarks and landscapes of the Eternal City, to figure studies, sculpture, wall graffiti, and wall paintings. She has exhibited her work many times over the past years in Rome, Paris, New York, Ann Arbor, and Boston, and her work graces many collections public and private. She is sought after as an instructor at the New York Art Students League, Providence Art Club, Newport Museum School, Clos Mirabel in the Pyrenees, and now Villa San Michele in Castiglione/Ravello on the Amalfi Coast.



Top: *Cinecittà*, 2000, watercolor on cotton Khadi paper, 40 x 18 cm, by Wendy Artin. Above: *View at Sunrise of the bay of Salerno and the Mediterranean Sea from our Villa San Michele*.

The Villa San Michele is a small family run hotel perched on the steep slope between the famed coast road and the sea, where there are steps and a rock jetty for swimming. Now in its second generation of ownership (I have been staying there ever since the two brothers, now in their 20s, and taking over management from their parents, were infants). The hotel offers basic but ample comforts and a stunning view from each room of the bay of Salerno and distant mountainous shore to the south. Several rooms offer terraces or balconies. The chef, Luigi, prepares a daily menu of exquisitely prepared locally sourced cuisine. There are only twelve rooms at Villa San Michele, which will be allocated in order of registration. We have also secured potential additional rooms at two other hotels, the five-star Anantara Convento and the four-star Luna Convento, since there are potentially more spots in the workshop than rooms in the Villa San Michele, assuming a desire for single rooms.

We will spend 8 nights on the coast in Amalfi and then for our final night, we will ascend the thousand feet to the aerie of Ravello, where we will stay in a small hotel with a view!

Above, right, View from one of the rooms; below, right, Villa San Michele from the bathing jetty, watercolor by Stephen Harby; Below, left, View of the Hotel from the cliffs of Ravello (the white building, our hotel)





Our six days of the workshop at Villa San Michele will be spent with morning and/or afternoon painting sessions in situ interspersed with forays to nearby sites for field sketching. Studio sessions will be held at Villa San Michele, whether on an open air terrace shaded with an arbor or the expansive lounging terrace. These will be divided between painting the figure (accompanying Wendy, will be her longtime and exceptional model, Laura, who is also an artist and actor in her own right), and tackling still lifes, with subjects being provided by the abundant

Above, left, Half Lemon in Moroccan Bowl, Above right, Lemon, below: Laura on Side, 2012, watercolor on Fabriano Ingres paper, 18 x 34 cm, Bottom, three quick studies of Laura, all works this page by Wendy Artin.



lemons, possibly the catch from the sea, later to become our dinner, or produce from local gardens.

The magnificent landscape and built environment around us will also summon our skills and resources! In addition to the breathtaking and always changing views from each of the three places you will be staying, there is an abundance of nearby places to explore and paint. Within a five or ten minute walk by either narrow paths or the coastal road is the small hamlet of Atrani. We will go there one day to have a simple lunch in the arcade of the viaduct of the elevated roadway above. A multilevel stage-set like piazza frames the parish church as its centerpiece. Narrow passageways under the buildings lead to a small pop-up museum devoted to MC Escher, no doubt inspired by the configurations of stairways that are commonplace here. Another morning or afternoon will be spent in Amalfi, where we will visit the Cathedral of Sant'Andrea, dating from the 9th through 13th centuries, and whose Arab-Norman details attest to how Amalfi was once a crossroads of the diverse cultural currents flowing across the Mediterranean. Amalfi is also home to the ancient paper mill, Carteria Amatruda, whose watercolor paper is still sought after today. We will visit early on, attend a paper making session and stock up!



Our day in Ravello will provide the opportunity for more plein air work. While it's not a sure thing, this late in the season, there will be the attraction of swimming in the crystal

Above: the charming church and piazza of Atrani, another nearby destination for exploration and field sketching; Below: Cathedral of Sant'Andrea, Amalfi.





Above The piazza of Ravello, one of the places we may gather to paint; below left, Bracciale d'Oro Flower Fragment, and right, Braccilae d'Oro White Bird Alighting, both from current exhibition, "Livia's Garden at Gurari Collections, Boston, by Wendy Artin



clear water, at least for those able to brave the possibly chilly temps! The heated pools at the alternative accommodations at Luna Convento and Anantara Convento might tempt some participants to opt for those accommodations!

We are also offering as an optional coda the opportunity to spend three additional nights in Naples under the tutelage of Art Historian, Jeffrey Blanchard, Coordinator of the Cornell Program in Rome. We will stay in a stylish three star hotel on the lively Piazza Bellini steps from the Archaeological Museum and Spacca Napoli. The three full days will begin with an excursion south to Paestum (whose three ancient Greek temples were sketched and painted by Piranesi), and the great Carthusian Monastery at nearby Padula and then once in Naples, we propose an immersion into the wonderful sites of that city. They span ancient



Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and modern eras. A visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum will also be included.

This is an exceptional opportunity, which combines the chance to paint in the company of one of the world's painting stars, in a place of exceptional beauty, while being pampered with good company, friendly service, and delicious food!

Above, view of the Temple of Neptune at Paestum (1778; engraving by Giovanni Battista Piranesi; below, view of Naples and its bay from Certosa di San Martino.



MORE ABOUT THE HOTELS and AVAILABLE OPTIONS

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Since there are only twelve rooms total in the Villa San Michele, it is hoped that participants may opt to share with others they know. Even so, it is likely we will need to draw on additional nearby hotels in order to accommodate all those interested in the workshop. We anticipate a group of 15-20. This also gives the possibility of opting for more luxury and comforts!

VILLA SAN MICHELE (3 ★)

http://www.hotel-villasanmichele.it/?utm_source=Organic&utm_medium=GMB&utm_campaign=My%20business

The Villa San Michele, which will be the headquarters and site of all workshop sessions not conducted en plein air in the field, is more like a private villa, which in fact it was originally, before becoming a hotel.

Of the 12 rooms (the entire property), all rooms offer a direct view of the sea. Five rooms offer large furnished balconies or terraces (of these, one with the largest terrace, which includes a garden and large shade tree, does not have a view of the sea from the room itself, but only from the terrace. The most desirable rooms will be allocated in each category opted for on a first come, first served basis. Most, if not all rooms can be set up with either twins or queen size bed, if the requirement is made known in advance.



HOTEL LUNA CONVENTO (4 ★)

<https://www.lunahotel.it>

The Luna Convento is a historic Amalfi hotel, located approximately a 15 minute walk or short bus or taxi ride from the Villa San Michele. It will provide additional space if, due to a large demand for single accommodation, we fill the available rooms at the Villa San Michele before filling the available spots in the workshop (limited to 20). Here, guests will enjoy the same hospitality and views as at Villa San Michele, with a slightly higher level of comfort and amenities, including a swimming pool beside the sea. Participants staying here will have the option to dine either with the group at Villa San Michele, or on their own at this hotel.



ANANTARA CONVENTO HOTEL (5 ★ L)

<https://www.anantara.com/en/convento-di-amalfi>

The Anantara Convento is an exceptional property, perched above the town of Amalfi and extends across the contour of its high elevation with a sequence of terraced open and interior spaces, including a chapel, cloister, and infinity pool. Like the Luna, it was formerly a convent, before becoming a hotel, and it served for many years at the Hotel Cappucini, prior to its extensive renovation into the present hotel. There is also a private beach connected to the hotel by an elevator. Participants opting to stay here will have daily shuttle transportation provided between the hotel and the Villa San Michele, and may either dine with the group or back at their hotel (with an allowance of €60 provided).



For Pricing and Registration Information

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