

An abstract painting featuring a staircase with steps in shades of blue and purple. The background is filled with various green and yellow brushstrokes, suggesting foliage or a natural setting. The overall style is expressive and textured.

# Vancouver Island School of Art

Spring  
Summer  
2023  
Courses

# Vancouver Island School of Art

[www.vancouverislandschoolart.com](http://www.vancouverislandschoolart.com)

Whether you want to take only one art course or complete a full-time program, there is a place for you at our school. We have courses for people with absolutely no experience as well as courses for artists who might want to learn new skills. Our classes are small -usually around 8-14 students per class. Our demographics vary from 18-80 so every course you take at VISA is a small microcosm of the world at large.

When you take a course at our school you will find that you are part of a community. it is a great place to meet people and make friends. Within no time, you will feel right at home in our contemporary classroom space located in one of Victoria's treasured downtown heritage buildings.

## About us

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# Spring Summer 2023 Courses

## ART HISTORY

### ART HISTORY: ART AS THERAPY

This six-week discussion-based course is inspired by Alain de Botton's 'Art as Therapy'. Botton believes that art can be seen as a useful tool to give us direction and guidance on how to live. He proposes that art can make people become better versions of themselves. In this course, a series of artworks from across the ages and genres will be reframed and recontextualized so that they can be approached as tools for the resolution of difficult issues in individual lives. Discussion will also covers a variety of ways to 'read' a work of art from the following points of view: technical, political, historical, shock-value and therapeutic. This course will make you rethink how your approach to art and visual culture and bring new life to your experience as you visit museums and galleries across the world. Recommended Textbook: Alain de Botton and John Armstrong, *Art as Therapy*, Phaidon, 2013. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, May 16 - Jun 20, 6pm - 9pm | Lycia Trouton \$275 In-person**

### IMAGINING THE SACRED

One of the purposes of the visual arts is to make the unimaginable visible and to represent the abstract and eternal. Through lectures and discussions, this art history course will explore the influence of spiritualities on art production and human expression, including Zen, Paganism, Islamic art, Theosophy, ancient Chinese art, and Medieval Christianity. Art and artists covered include John Cage, Piet Mondrian, Agnes Martin, Hilma af Klint, illuminated manuscripts, and Shang Bronzes and a range of other artworks. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Fridays, May 19 - Jun 23, 10am - 1pm | Jessica Ziakin \$275 In-person**

## ART NOW: STORYTELLING AND ABSTRACTION

Curious about what is going on in contemporary art in the 21st century? This course follows the trajectory of two major trends in art now: **storytelling** and **abstraction** (and all that might fall between the two). Through a series of lectures and slide presentations, you will be encouraged to explore the ideas behind the art being produced. This course is open to anyone interested in art, and serves as a great background for anyone planning to look at museums and galleries in a major city. Supplemental readings and website material included. All sessions are recorded so you can catch up if you miss a session. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, Jul 4 - Aug 8, 6pm - 9pm | John Luna \$275 Online**

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## ART FUNDAMENTALS

### MAKING ART A PRACTICE

Looking to transform sporadic art-making into a regular practice? This course will provide students with simple, practical exercises to get started and keep work flowing. Learn how to develop your ideas by exploring the styles of an eclectic group of artists such as the Post-Impressionists, Surrealists and Abstract Expressionists. Course is delivered through slide lectures, readings and class discussion. Projects will include drawing, painting, mixed media and collage. The most important thing that you will discover from this course is that art is its own reward and you will gain the motivation to make art! *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, Jul 6 - Aug 10, 10am - 1pm | Jessica Ziakin \$275 In-person**

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## DRAWING

### DRAWING: COMPOSITION

Learn how to assemble an image to maximum effect using the elements of tension, balance and pattern in this course on composition. Students will copy and analyze works from the Renaissance to Abstract Expressionism to gain mastery over the layout and planning of two-dimensional art works. Delivered through slide lectures and exercises and projects on paper using graphite, ink, chalk pastels and collage. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, May 16 - Jun 20, 10am - 1pm | Jessica Ziakin \$275 In-person**

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### PASTELS AND NATURE

This course uses soft pastels with nature as a source of inspiration. Pastel drawings will include plants, flowers, landscapes and other natural forms such as shells and rocks. You will be encouraged to work in an imaginative and inventive way that pushes the subject beyond mere representation. Chalk pastel techniques and information about design and colour will be covered. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Wednesdays, May 17 - Jun 21, 6pm-9pm | Wendy Welch \$275 In-person**

## GRAPHITE: EXPERIMENTATION AND EXPRESSION

Enhance your drawing vocabulary through an in-depth study of graphite. By taking a contemporary approach to this classic drawing medium, you will be encouraged to build upon technical and conceptual skills to create a new body of work. Different drawing surfaces and forms of graphite will be explored to encourage experimentation. Group discussions, exercises, and suggested readings will add depth to weekly drawing assignments. Contemporary artists to be studied include Vija Celmins, Lucy Skaer, David Musgrave, and Ciprian Muresan. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, May 18 - Jun 22, 10am - 1pm | Leah McInnis \$275 Online**

## PENCIL DRAWING

The pencil is the most basic and simplest drawing tool. While art supply stores keep offering more and more choices of materials for us to use, the pencil is still one of the best drawing tools. Sometimes, especially considering the hectic pace of today's society, it is good to slow everything down and focus on one thing, in this case 'the pencil'. This course will introduce you to a variety of ways to draw with a pencil, including drawing from observation as well as making abstract designs. The course will cover making a variety of types of lines, shading, and using an eraser as a drawing tool. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, May 18 - Jun 22, 6pm - 9pm | Meghan Krauss \$275 In-person**

## COLOURED PENCILS

Learn to reveal the richness of coloured pencils as a contemporary drawing medium in this six-week online course. Through a guided series of drawing assignments, you will gain a deeper understanding of coloured pencils and how they can be implemented in your art practice. Selected readings, group discussions, and thematic exercises will all lead to the production of a self-directed final project. Contemporary artists to be studied include Annie Pootoogook, Graham Little, Winnie Truong, and Ingrid Calame. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, Jul 6 - Aug 10, 10am - 1pm | Leah McInnis \$275 Online**

## CALLIGRAPHY AS ART

This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of calligraphic lettering and the development of a final project that uses lettering as a major component of its design. Instruction will focus on the Roman capitals since all the lettering in the Western world is based on that form. Students will learn how to assemble and use a broad-edge pen to execute Roman capitals by hand. Those who wish to learn a second style will be introduced to the italic hand. A final project could involve emulating a medieval manuscript or using lettering in a contemporary composition. The instructor will show a variety of examples for students to use as inspiration. No prior experience in art or calligraphy is necessary, but artists will find this course useful for strengthening their lettering skills. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, Jul 6 - Aug 10, 2pm - 5pm | Jenny Hainsworth \$275 In-person**

## DRAWING FROM DREAMS

Deepen your drawing practice by connecting to your subconscious. You will investigate the dream world, practice automatic drawing, create ink blots as a starting point for picture making, and practice different types of meditation and yoga before using a no-editing method of drawing. You will explore what arises while expressing your subconscious and see what happens when letting go of conscious thinking to work more intuitively in your art practice. Lots of play will be encouraged using a range of mixed media including pencil crayon, black and white chalk pastel, oil pastels, India ink, watercolour, and collage. Beginners with a sense of adventure and more experienced artists welcome! *Suitable for all levels.*

**Fridays, Jul 7 - Aug 11, 2pm - 5pm | Tamara Bond \$275 In-person**

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## MIXED MEDIA

### DRAWING WITH FABRIC

This course will encourage students to bring together craft techniques and contemporary art. They will learn basic skills in rug hooking, appliqué and fabric printing using stencils and cyanotype. Projects will be organized around the themes of mementos and monuments with spaciousness for individual interests. Contemporary textile artists, as well as other artists working with mementos and monuments, will be introduced weekly for inspiration and to learn from. Previous experience with the craft skills and art mediums are not necessary; students will be supported and challenged at their skill level. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, May 16 - Jun 20, 2pm - 5pm | Corrie Peters \$275 In-person**

### COLLAGE: PAPER AS PAINT

This course will introduce you to different ways of using coloured and patterned papers to create a composition as you might do with paint. The focus will be on using both abstract and representational designs based on found and composed shapes. The use of coloured patterned papers is a great way to expand your colour awareness and has been used for over a century to plan colour schemes for paintings. The projects will be small works of art in themselves but can also be used as ideas or studies for paintings. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, Jul 4 - Aug 8, 2pm - 5pm | Wendy Welch \$275 In-person**

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# PAINTING

## PAINTING: THE BASICS

Are you curious about how to paint, but don't know where to begin? This course is a great introduction to the basics of painting, including brush types, brush handling, and mixing and applying paint to the surface. Other aspects of painting such as creating a dynamic composition and an introduction to colour theory will also be covered. You will paint from still-life set-ups, photographic references, outdoors (plein air), and from your imagination. Acrylics will be used as their fast-drying quality makes them the easier paint for beginners to use. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Wednesdays, May 10 - Jun 14, 10am - 1pm | Kate Brooks Heinimann \$275**  
**In-person**

## PAINTING: THE FANTASTICAL LANDSCAPE

Explore ways to create uniquely playful and fantastical landscapes! You will introduce ideas and elements to incorporate in your painting, with the goal to make unconventional and visually exciting works. Learn about composition and colour and how they are used to create different moods and sensations in a work. The landscape work of historical and contemporary artists will be shown and discussed to expand the imaginative possibilities of the landscape genre. Participants can paint in a medium of their choice: acrylics, oil, watercolour or gouache. *Some painting experience required or simultaneous registration in Painting: The Basics.*

**Wednesdays, May 10 - Jun 14, 2pm - 5pm | Kate Brooks Heinimann \$275**  
**In-person**

## FLOWERS AND PLANTS WITH GOUACHE

Gouache is an opaque water-based medium that dries with a velvety finish. This course will use historical and contemporary examples of flower and plant paintings to inspire exciting approaches to the endless potential of botanical subject matter. Work will be done both on white and black watercolour paper. Emphasis will be on technique and developing a creative composition using gouache paint. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, May 16 - Jun 20, 2pm - 5pm | Wendy Welch \$275 Online**

## PAINTING: COMPOSITION AND PROCESS

In this online course, students learn how to create dynamic compositions, while also discovering how to make use of the unique physical properties of oil or acrylic paint to make a rich and exciting surface. Discover the value of planning evocative and successful compositions using sketching, overlaying techniques, collage and digital collage. Students will learn how to create a compositionally strong starting point before you begin to paint, and then let the painting process take over. Students can work in acrylic or oils. *Some painting experience recommended.*

**Wednesdays, May 17 - Jun 21, 10am - 1pm | Neil McClelland \$275 Online**



## **WATERCOLOUR: LANDSCAPE AS EXPERIMENT**

This course will use the medium of watercolour to explore the different ways artists in the 20th and 21st Century approach contemporary landscape painting. A wide range of artists will be studied, and their techniques will be discussed and explored. A range of watercolour techniques will be reviewed to encourage a free and more experimental approach to painting. Paintings made in the course can also be used as studies for larger scale acrylic or oil paintings. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, May 18 - Jun 22, 2pm - 5pm | Wendy Welch \$275 In-person**

## **PAINT LIKE AN ARTIST I**

You will be introduced to a contemporary painter and their historical influences each week. We will review their specific approaches to subject matter as well as application of paint and process. Artwork shown will include representation and abstraction, and there will be a weekly painting project. Great course for people who want to learn more about what is going on in painting in major cities such as New York, Los Angeles, London and Berlin. Useful if you want to push your painting practice in new directions. Participants can use oil, acrylic, gouache or watercolour. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Fridays, May 19 - Jun 23, 2pm - 5pm | Wendy Welch \$275 Online**

## **OIL BASICS**

Great introduction for those beginning to paint with oils and for those planning to switch from acrylics to oil. You will learn about brush handling, colour mixing, glazing and scumbling, and how to prepare supports. Projects include practice exercises, still life set-ups and portrait painting, and working from photographs and life. You will learn how oil paint technology has progressed to the point where it is considered more environmentally safe than acrylics. You will leave the course with a solid knowledge of oil painting materials including usage, clean-up and storage. In addition you will be introduced to an array of subject matter choices that you could pursue long after the course finishes. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Tuesdays, Jul 4 - Aug 8, 10am - 1pm | Neil McClelland \$275 Online**

## **PAINTING: COLOUR, MEDIUM AND SURFACE**

This course will focus on how the combination of subject, medium, colour and surface can create a successful painting. We will explore how such choices can be used to change/enhance/subvert the mood, impact and meaning of a painting and affect the painting process. Students will be encouraged to experiment with different surfaces, work with a range of colour schemes and varying amounts of paint mediums for varied effects. Acrylic or oil painters welcome. *Some painting experience required.*

**Wednesdays, Jul 5 - Aug 9, 10am - 1pm | Neil McClelland \$275 Online**



## PAINTING THE EVERYDAY WITH GOUACHE

This course is inspired by the artist, illustrator and writer Maira Kalman (<https://www.mairakalman.com/>). The focus is on using gouache to paint objects and experiences that are part of everyday life. Gouache is a versatile material that can make rich velvety surfaces and painterly washes and is great for those new to painting. Composition, working with text, and ideas surrounding meaning and content will be addressed with each project. Course will include presentations of other artists working with 'the everyday' as source. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Wednesdays, Jul 5 - Aug 9, 6pm - 9pm | Wendy Welch \$275 In-person**

## WATERCOLOUR PLAY EXTENDED

This course will introduce you to watercolour painting through a series of basic exercises that demonstrate how to build simple, yet dynamic, compositions. The emphasis is on 'play,' not on making finished paintings. You will learn how to hold the brush, how to mix colours, and how to have fun by just making marks, shapes, and well-designed compositions. The course offers an extension of exercises introduced in the three-hour 'Watercolour Play' workshop. It is not necessary to have done the workshop to take this course. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, Jul 6 - Aug 10, 2pm - 5pm | Wendy Welch \$275 Online**

## PAINT LIKE AN ARTIST II

A 20th century painter will be introduced each week. We will review their specific approaches to subject matter as well as application of paint and process. There will be a weekly painting project based on this discussion. Great for those curious to learn how early-mid 20th century artists have influenced contemporary painters. The course provides an excellent opportunity to push your painting practice in new directions. Participants can use oil, acrylic, gouache or watercolour. This course can be taken as a follow-up to **Paint Like an Artist I**, but it is not necessary to have taken the first one in order to enrol in the second part. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Fridays, Jul 7 - Aug 11, 10am - 1pm | Wendy Welch \$275 Online**

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

### PHOTOGRAPHY: URBAN LANDSCAPE

Humanity's relationship with built environments has fascinated street photographers. By focusing on their surroundings, urban landscape photographers tend to document 'the where' that they find themselves in, with less emphasis on 'the who.' In this course, elements of architectural, cityscape and street photography will be covered. Assignments are given with the objective to make normal scenes, the ones that we see day after day, in a captivating way. As this course is as much about the 'art' as it is about the technical side of photography, students should have a grasp of their camera's basic functions. *Suitable for all levels.*

**Thursdays, May 18 - Jun 22, 10am - 1pm | Meghan Krauss \$275 In-person**

# Spring 2023 Courses

## MONDAY

May 15-Jun 19

## TUESDAY

May 16-Jun 20

## WEDNESDAY

May 17-Jun 21

## THURSDAY

May 18-Jun 22

## FRIDAY

May 19-Jun 23

10:00am  
to  
1:00pm

2:00pm  
to  
5:00pm

6:00pm  
to  
9:00pm

**Tuition: \$275.** Please note courses are IN-PERSON or ONLINE. The online courses are delivered using the easily downloadable Zoom platform in real time. Each course will be accompanied by a blog with all the class information such as slide presentations, handouts and links (including links to recorded weekly classes). In-person courses are in the classroom at VISA.

Vancouver Island School of Art 302-733 Johnson St., Victoria BC V8W 3C7  
250-380-3500 or [info@vancouverislandschoolart.com](mailto:info@vancouverislandschoolart.com)

### Drawing: Composition

Jessica Ziakin  
*In-person*

### Flowers and Plants with Gouache

Wendy Welch  
*Online*

### Drawing with Fabrice

Corrie Peters  
*In-person*

### Art History: Art as Therapy

Lycia Trouton  
*In-person*

### Painting: Composition and Process

Neil McClelland  
*Online*

### Painting: The Basics

Kate Brooks-Heinimann  
*In-person*  
\*May 10-June 14

### Painting: The Fantastical Landscape

Kate Brooks-Heinimann  
*In-person*  
\*May 10-June 14

### Pastels and Nature

Wendy Welch  
*In-person*

### Photography: Urban Landscape

Meghan Krauss  
*In-person*

### Graphicie: Experimentation and Expression

Leah McInnis  
*Online*

### Watercolour: Landscape as Experiment

Wendy Welch  
*In-person*

### Pencil Drawing

Meghan Krauss  
*In-person*

### Paint Like an Artist I

Wendy Welch  
*Online*

### Imagining the Sacred

Jessica Ziakin  
*In-person*

# Summer 2023 Courses

MONDAY  
Jul 3-Aug 7

TUESDAY  
Jul 4-Aug 8

WEDNESDAY  
Jul 5-Aug 9

THURSDAY  
Jul 6-Aug 10

FRIDAY  
Jul 7-Aug 11

**Tuition: \$275.** Please note courses are IN-PERSON or ONLINE. The online courses are delivered using the easily downloadable Zoom platform in real time. Each course will be accompanied by a blog with all the class information such as slide presentations, handouts and links (including links to recorded weekly classes). In-person courses are in the classroom at VISA.

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10:00am  
to  
1:00pm

2:00pm  
to  
5:00pm

6:00pm  
to  
9:00pm

**Oil Basics**  
Neil McClelland  
*Online*

**Collage:  
Paper as Paint**  
Wendy Welch  
*In-person*

**Art Now:  
Storytelling &  
Abstraction**  
John Luna  
*Online*

**Painting: Colour,  
Medium & Surface**  
Neil McClelland  
*Online*

**Painting the  
Everyday with  
Gouache**  
Wendy Welch  
*In-person*

**Coloured Pencils**  
Leah McInnis  
*Online*

**Making Art  
a Practice**  
Jessica Ziakin  
*In-person*

**Calligraphy as Art**  
Jenny Hainsworth  
*In-person*

**Watercolour Play  
Extended**  
Wendy Welch  
*Online*

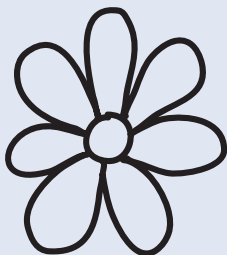
**Paint Like  
an Artist II**  
Wendy Welch  
*Online*

**Drawing  
From Dreams**  
Tamara Bond  
*In-person*

## DROP-IN ONLINE SESSIONS

### DRAW BY DRAWING

- Wednesdays 10-11:30am
- \$20/session
- Bi-weekly
- Beginners welcome



[drawbydrawing.com](http://drawbydrawing.com)

### WATERCOLOUR MONDAYS

- Mondays 6:30-8:30pm
- \$25/session
- Bi-weekly
- Beginners welcome



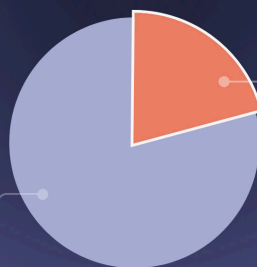
[watercolourforeveryone.ca](http://watercolourforeveryone.ca)

The importance of donating to the school  
during these challenging times...

**art is more important than ever!**

**VISA** relies almost entirely on tuition and does not receive operational funding from any government sources.

**REGISTERED CHARITY**  
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80% TUITION

20% DONATIONS

Support **VISA** by making a donation:

<https://www.vancouverislandschoolart.com/donate>



**Head  
over  
Heels**

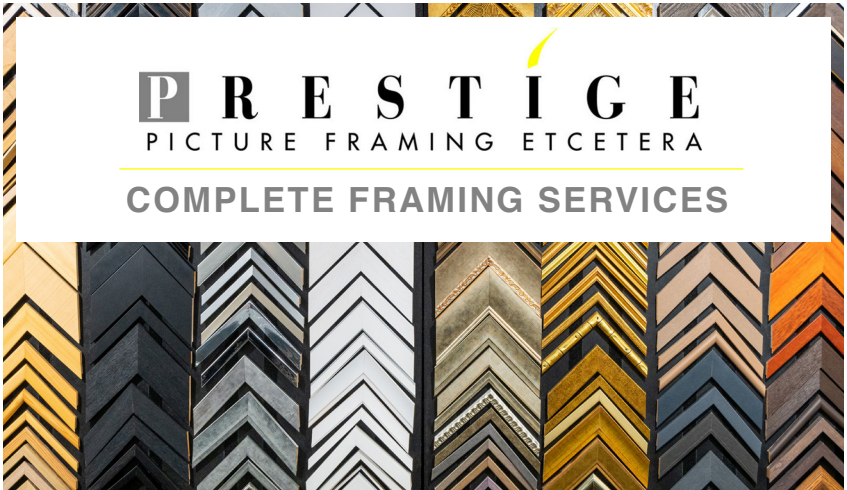
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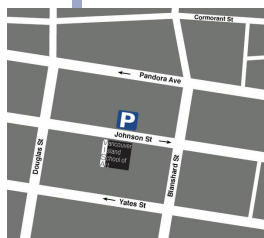
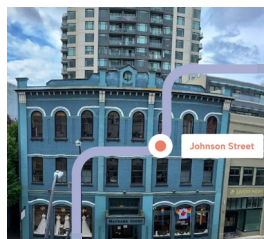
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[prestigeframing.ca](http://prestigeframing.ca)

# Victoria's downtown art school

## Vancouver Island School of Art

302-733 Johnson Street  
(across from the Johnson St Parkade)  
Victoria BC V8W 3C7

250.380.3500  
[info@vancouverislandschoolart.com](mailto:info@vancouverislandschoolart.com)  
[www.vancouverislandschoolart.com](http://www.vancouverislandschoolart.com)  
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instagram: @visaartschool



VISA is the only independent art school in the  
Province of British Columbia with transfer agreements  
to university art programs:

Emily Carr University of Art + Design Vancouver  
Vancouver Island University Nanaimo

Registered Charity #86392 1433 RR0001

VISA is designated with the Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB)

VISA has a Education Quality Assurance designation  
(necessary for international student registration)



# Vancouver Island School of Art