

THE ART OF THE FACE

A Three-Day Portrait Workshop with Michael Guarino

Location: Gallery Workshop Space
408 Chestnut Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Medium: Oil or Acrylic

Level: Intermediate

Dates: August 28-30, 2025



Workshop Schedule

DAY 1 - Foundations: Structure & Observation

Focus: Understanding the form and proportion of the human face

Morning (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

- Welcome & Introductions
- Demo: Head Proportions & Facial Structure
- Warm-Up Sketching (5-minute facial studies from reference)
- Group Discussion: What makes a portrait compelling?

Afternoon (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

- Guided Drawing: Block-in of a Portrait
 - Emphasis on structure and line
 - Group Critique: Reviewing early sketches
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DAY 2 - Light, Shadow & Likeness (*Live Model Day*)

Focus: Lighting, tonal values, and building a sense of likeness

Morning (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

- Demo: Lighting Patterns & Value Mapping
- Exercises: 2-Value and 5-Value Studies from reference

Afternoon (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

- Live Model Session: Sustained Painting or Drawing
- One-on-One Instructor Feedback
- Wrap-Up Discussion

DAY 3 - Expression, Color & Personal Voice

Focus: Skin tones, emotional presence, and developing your own style

Morning (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

- Demo: Mixing Skin Tones & Color Temperature
- Painting Session: Expressive Portrait from Chosen Reference

Afternoon (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

- Studio Time: Final Portrait Piece
 - Final Critique & Group Sharing
 - Workshop Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks
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Materials List

(Participants should bring preferred materials for oil or acrylic)

For Oil or Acrylic Painting:

- Selection of brushes (rounds, flats, filberts)
- Palette and palette knives
- Canvas or panels (recommended: 11"x14" to 16"x20")
- Paints: Suggested limited palette
 - Titanium White, Cadmium Red, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Ultramarine Blue, Alizarin Crimson, etc.
- Odorless mineral spirits (for oil) or water + medium (for acrylic)
- Sketchbook or pad for notes and preliminary sketches
- Apron, rags, paper towels

Studio Supplies Provided: Easels, tables, lighting setup, model stand

Workshop Goals

- Strengthen understanding of facial structure and proportions
- Develop value control for depth and realism
- Explore skin tone mixing and emotional color use
- Create at least one finished portrait
- Build confidence in personal portrait style

Michael Guarino Background

Michael's work is a heartfelt exploration of memories and moments from his life, captured not through photographs, but through the timeless medium of painting. An oil painter specializing in figurative work, portraits, and seascapes, Michael blends the disciplined techniques of classical realism with a progressively looser, expressive style. He is a member of several esteemed art organizations, including the New Hampshire Art Association and the Portrait Society of America. His work has been exhibited in venues across the country, from New England museums to galleries in Arizona and New Mexico. Michael honed his craft at the Academy of Realists Art, the Florence Academy of Art, and under renowned artist Daniel Gerhartz.