

Course Title	Composition with Portrait & Figure
Tutor	Carl Randall
Studio session Dates	Fridays 25th April – 13th June 2025 No Reading Week
Session Times	10:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Course Code	E2403P19
Studio	Bankside Studio 3
Course Fees	£545

Course overview

Explore a variety of exciting approaches to compositions featuring portraits and figures. Observational/academic exercises are balanced with imaginative, unusual and creative projects, often looking at the figure & portrait within environments. You'll gain a broad and varied understanding of figurative painting, portraiture, design and composition, monotone and colour painting techniques, the use of acrylic or oil paint, as well as preliminary sketching.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Analyse the work of others and apply findings to your own work
- Apply the rules of perspective in the creation of paintings, as well as some experience of distorting space.
- Create a narrative in figurative painting.
- Apply compositional skills in painting the figure within a context.
- Create paintings that explore a theme or idea through experimentation with composition and combinations of imagery/ motifs.
- Apply safe-working practices at all times.

What Level is the course and do I need any particular skills?

This course is not advanced, however best suited to students with at least some painting & drawing experience (starting approx from lower intermediate level and higher).

About your tutor

Carl Randall is a graduate of The Slade School of Fine Art (BA Honours Fine Art Painting), the Royal Drawing School (the Drawing Year), and Tokyo University of Fine Arts, Japan (MFA and Doctorate in Painting). He has exhibited several times at the National Portrait Gallery's Portrait Award (2024, 2013, 2012, 2002), and was their Travel Award winner in 2012, where he had a display of 16 Japan-themed paintings. He has also exhibited numerous times at The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition (2019, 2013, 2009 2012); The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Exhibition at the Mall Galleries (2024, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2012), and at Flowers Gallery London (every year 2017-present). He has had solo exhibitions in London and Tokyo, and has taken part in Art Fairs in Switzerland, Japan, London, Turkey and Taiwan. Carl has work in the collections of The Royal Collection (commissioned by HRH King Charles), University College London Art Museum, Tokyo Geidai Art Museum Japan, and Foundation Carmignac Paris. He is also the winner of The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition and The Nomura Art Prize Japan, as well as several other awards. His work has been featured on the BBC World Service and CNN.

<https://www.instagram.com/carlrallartist/>

Weekly breakdown

Below is a weekly breakdown of what will be covered. Please bear in mind that these sessions will move with the pace of the group, so a degree of flexibility of what will be covered on which day will be employed.

Wk	Date	Topic/Activity	Location & Tutor	What to bring	Model
1	Friday 25th April 2025	<p>The Figure and its Environment</p> <p>Observational exercise focusing on painting the figure in relation to its immediate surroundings (studio). You will approach the representation of space in a non-traditional way (dividing the composition into sections). Using monochrome only today (black and white).</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Black and white paints only today.</p> <p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it). An apron.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>All day</p>

2	Friday 2nd May 2025	<p>Linear & Aerial Perspective</p> <p>Reconstructing space using 2 point perspective, looking at the effects of depth upon visual perception. Incorporating 2 figures into composition, foreground and background.</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Black and white paints only today.</p> <p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it).</p> <p>Pencils, erasers, long rulers. An apron.</p>	<p>Yes - Afternoon only</p>
3	Friday 9th May 2025	<p>Portrait & figure painting from memory.</p> <p>AM: Painting/sketching the figure/portrait from memory.</p> <p>PM: Incorporating studies into multiple figure composition with the environment.</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare</i></p>	<p>Yes - Morning only</p>

				<p><i>the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Variety of colors.</p> <p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it).</p> <p>A4 sketchbook and sketching pencil. An apron.</p>	
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4	Friday 16th May 2025	<p>Self-Portrait inspired by Movies.</p> <p>You will use sketches made from movies in class as the starting point for your own self portrait composition. You will then expand upon these sketches using painting and ‘found collage’, introducing a self portrait into the composition.</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Variety of colors.</p> <p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it).</p> <p>A collection of disposable magazines that to cut up to make collages.</p> <p>A4 sketchbook and sketching pencil. An apron.</p>	No
5	Friday 23rd May 2025	<p>Composition in Ukiyo-e (Japanese prints).</p> <p>You will create a figure/portrait composition influenced by the visual language and compositional motifs in the traditional Japanese woodblock prints of Hiroshige and Hokusai.</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be</p>	Yes - Morning only

				<p>used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Variety of colors (especially bright colours).</p> <p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it).</p> <p>A4 sketchbook and sketching pencil. An apron.</p>	
6	Friday 30th May 2025	<p>How the eye moves around pictures.</p> <p>Looking at examples of how artists throughout history have carefully constructed their images to guide the viewers' eye around compositions (creating a flow and to help the eye look at everything, or to point towards something important within the picture). You will then try out your own composition based on these ideas.</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Variety of colors. An apron.</p>	Yes - Morning only

				<p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it).</p> <p>A4 sketchbook and sketching pencil.</p>	
7	Friday 6th June 2025	<p>Bankside-inspired composition (1/2)</p> <p>You will incorporate portraits/figures into environments inspired by the surrounding Bankside/Tate Modern/Thames River areas. By incorporating the three figures (same model but in 3 different poses) into one space, a narrative can be suggested. You will create a composition which has either a naturalistic sense of depth/perspective, or a deliberate distortion/flattening of space.</p> <p>AM: Working from model</p> <p>PM: Generation of ideas.</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>A4 sketchbook and sketching pencil. Today you will mainly be drawing, but at the very end of the day, painting may be required (if so, normal painting materials, as described in previous lesson,.</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). An apron.</p>	Yes - Morning only
8	Friday 13th June 2025	<p>Bankside-inspired composition (2/2)</p> <p>Continuation/completion of painting which was begun in the previous week.</p> <p>AM: Working from model</p> <p>PM: Completing painting</p>	<p>Carl Randall</p> <p>Bankside Studio 3</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>Painting started previous week.</p> <p>Painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished);</p>	Yes - Morning only

				<p>A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). <i>Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application.</i></p> <p>Acrylic paint is recommended over oil paint (though oil can also be used if wished). Variety of colors.</p> <p>Variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details). Zest-it, palette, eye-dropper (for Zest-it). An apron.</p>	
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Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS

Please note: as listed above, the common things needed for most lessons are - painting pads or paper adequately prepared/primed for painting (recommended more than stretched canvases or boards - though these can also be used if wished); A1 size (2 x A3 sheets stuck together also ok). Please prepare the surface in a mid-tone grey - dry and opaque application. Please also bring an apron.

The Academy is a white spirit and turpentine free environment and only odourless spirits, such as Zest-it or Sansodor, are permitted on the premises. You must provide your own spirits, which can be recycled for longevity. We request that you bring 2 small jars (one with a lid, one without) to hold your spirit, and a few cloth rags for brush cleaning (such as an old cotton t-shirt).

Below is a list of what is currently required for the course. Please also check the 'what to bring' sections above (e.g. painting equipment for working outdoors if this is possible, weeks 7 & 8). Your tutor will advise if further materials or equipment are required as the course progresses.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHETHER WORKING IN OIL OR ACRYLIC PAINT, IT IS ADVISABLE TO HAVE A TUBE OF READY-MADE BLACK PAINT (NOT MIXING YOUR OWN).

- Oil paints (artist's quality preferable, but not essential)
Tutors recommended palette for painting skin/portraits:
Titanium White
Ivory Black
Alizarin Crimson
Cadmium Red
Ultramarine Blue
Cobalt Blue
Burnt Umber
Yellow Ochre
Sap Green (or Terre Verte).
- Acrylic paint - students may work in oil or acrylic paint (acrylic recommended but not essential), but all students will also need to have black and white acrylic paint
- Brushes: variety of size paint brushes, from small to medium size (inc very small pointed brushes for details).
- Only odorless spirits, Sansodor or Zest-it (the Academy is a white spirit free environment)

- Tear-off A3 paper or solid palette and palette knife (A4 palettes can be too small).
- Kitchen towels or cotton rags
- All drawing materials, to include:
 - A4 sketchbook.
 - HB & 4B Pencils.
 - Willow charcoal
 - Eraser
 - Pencil Sharpener

If you do not have your own painting materials, there is an option to order a **Painting Pack** at the time of booking which will be available when you arrive for your first class. You can purchase this via the following link;

<http://artacademy.org.uk/evening-classes/materials/>

An **Acrylic Painting Pack** (£60.00) contains:

A set of bristle brushes, both flat and round, suitable for either oils or acrylics

One tear off palette (9"x12")

One palette knife

One 10"x 12" canvas board

One 10"x 14" canvas board

Two 12"x 16" canvas boards

8 Daler Rowney (*System 3*) acrylic tubes: Titanium White, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red Hue, Ultramarine, Sap Green, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Mars Black.

An **Oil Painting Pack** (£75.00) contains:

A set of bristle brushes, both flat and round, suitable for either oils or acrylics

One tear off palette (9"x12")

One palette knife

One bottle Zest-it (250ml)

One 10"x 12" canvas board

One 10"x 14" canvas board

Two 12"x 16" canvas boards

6 Daler Rowney Georgian Oil paint tubes in: Titanium White, Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Burnt Umber, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson, French Ultramarine Blue, Coeruleum Blue.

Certain materials can also be purchased from the Academy shop during shop hours. Please check in advance of your class if the item you require is available, as the Academy may not stock all items listed above.

Resources & Further Reading

Please note reading lists are suggested, not required.

Other useful resources (websites, galleries etc)

Artists students may wish to look at (with regard to figure/portrait compositions):

Paula Rego, Neo Rauch, Paulo Uccello, Edward Hopper, Stanley Spencer, David Hockney, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, Early Flemish Masters, Medieval painting, the Japanese Woodblock prints of Hiroshige and Hokusai.

Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Reception at info@artacademy.ac.uk

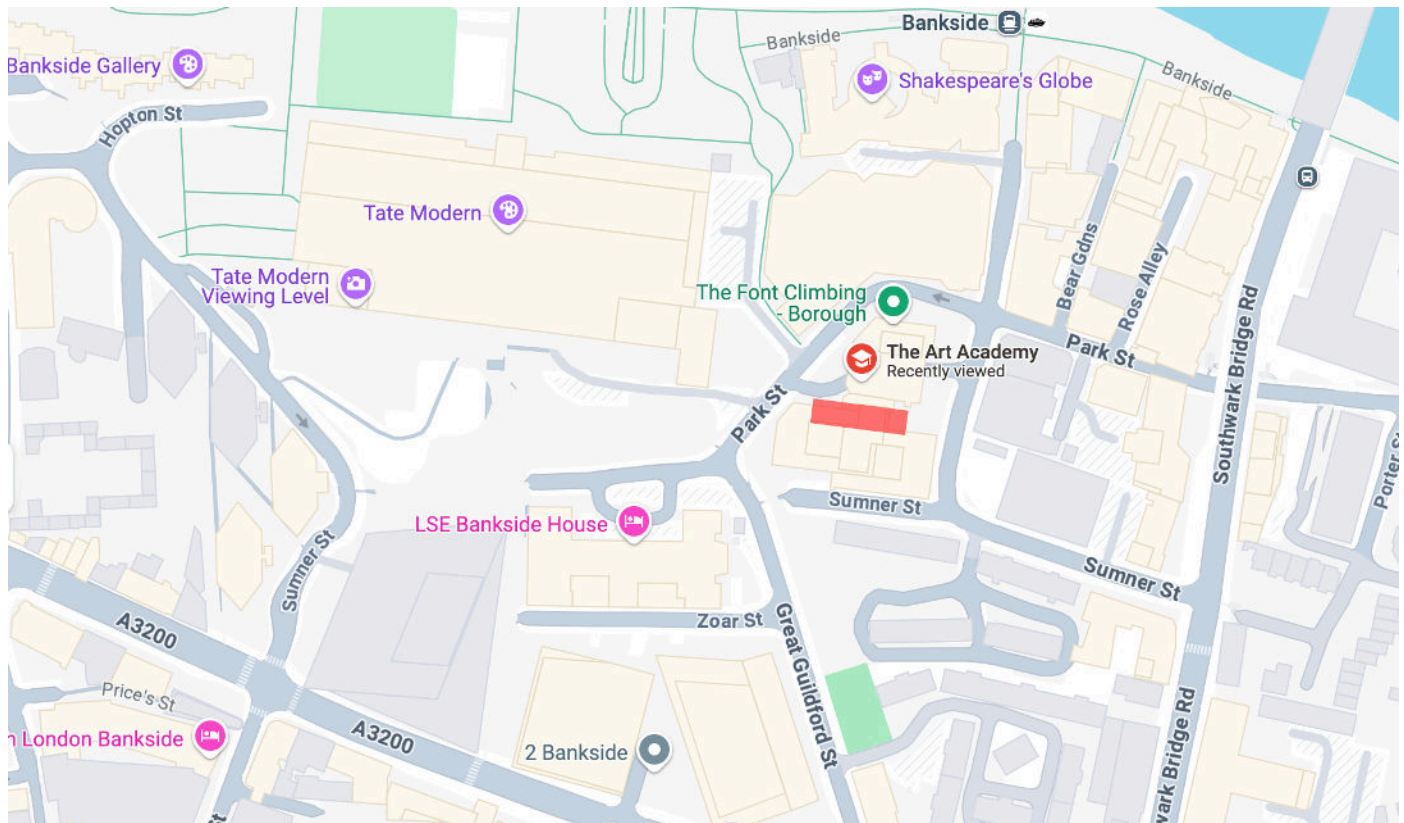
Locations - (Please check course location at the top of this document)

Art Academy – Bankside Campus

185 Park Street

London SE1 9BL

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services), Southwark (Jubilee Lines) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations. Please [click here](#) for a map, what three words input.



Just moments walk from the Thames, Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:

- White Cube
- Tate Modern
- The Globe
- Bankside Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common area located in the basement level of the building, here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, fifteen minutes walk away.

For health and safety reasons, all students, staff, and tutors must use a sealable keep-cup or container for hot drinks. Mugs and open cups are not permitted in our teaching spaces. As we do not provide keep-cups, please bring your own if you wish to use the coffee and tea facilities in our Hub area.

Disabled Access

The campus has an elevator and has no threshold from the street level providing full step free access. We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, if you have mobility issues please speak to a member of the Academy team before your course starts.

Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online this will be given to you on the first session of your course upon your arrival.
- Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- If you wish to join any class for the next term please contact the office to re-book. Classes are becoming increasingly popular, so please book early in order to guarantee your place.
- If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.