



Portrait Workshops by David Goatley, SFCA

Available for your group anywhere in North America or Europe

I am fortunate to have been able to pursue my passion - portrait painting - for over 25 years. I was born in London, England, and trained at Camberwell School of Art. I began painting full time in 1990 and in 1992 our family settled in Victoria BC, from where I am able to travel to fulfill commissions across Canada and the USA as well as Britain - around 300 so far.

Why workshops? I teach several workshops each year for various groups for several reasons - perhaps the most important reason is that painting is an isolated experience requiring all of one's attention and teaching a workshop renews the sense of camaraderie with my fellow artists as we all struggle to continue growing our skills. Also I love passing along some of the techniques and thought processes I have developed over the decades.

If your group is interested in my teaching a workshop, whether one outlined below or designed specifically for you, don't hesitate to contact me via email at david@davidgoatley.com I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Painting Portraits in Oil

2 days

Working from a live model, we will explore the basic proportions of the head; drawing convincing features; using tone to describe form and structure; and all that goes into making a lively, engaging portrait.

Working alla-prima, we'll begin in black and white paint, to help us grasp tonal concepts. We will progress the second day to colour, beginning with a demo in colour and discussions of media, my colour palette, and colour mixing. Students will then work on a head-and-shoulders colour study.

With clear step-by-step, hands-on instructions, a wealth of technical tips, continuous demonstrations, and personal instruction at each student's easel, I will show students how to approach the challenges of portraiture with confidence. Questions are encouraged at all times.



Color demonstration from life



Painting Portraits in Oil – Head and Figure

3 days

What are the basic proportions of the human face? What lines up with what? How does it all fit together and how do we translate the reality of another person into paint?

As in the 2 day workshop, we'll break this down into proportion, massing, tone and detailed descriptive brushwork, producing first a black and white then a full colour head study, followed by a more protracted $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ length portrait.

The third day gives us more time to consider composition, accurately draw the figure in paint and consider the problem of hands. There are demonstrations every step of the way.

Painting Oil Portraits from Photographs

3 days

This workshop covers the same material as Painting Portraits in Oil – Head and Figure but with an emphasis on painting from photographs rather than from a live model – two very different experiences.

Included are tips on how to compose a photograph, how to recognize and deal with photographic distortion, how to light a subject for a photograph to be used to paint a portrait, and many other tips unique to taking a photograph for painting portraiture and painting from both colour and B&W photographs.

On the first day I will complete a black and white demo from a colour photograph then the students will paint a black and white composition from a colour photograph I will provide. All students at this point will paint the same subject.



Painting from your own photographic shoot

On the second day I will demonstrate how to begin a more complex painting in colour from a colour photograph, concentrating on blocking in and then developing the head further.

The students will then begin working from their own colour photographic images on a $\frac{3}{4}$ length or head and shoulder portrait. The photo images should be 8x10 or larger with sufficient detail. I will discuss gridding as a tool for transferring drawing from a photograph to canvas.

We will spend the remaining day bringing this work towards a point where it can be completed.



Oil Portrait Intensive

5 days

This workshop combines elements of painting from a live model and painting from photographs, for a real understanding of how many commissioned portraits are done.

Day 1: The Head Study

Working from a live model I will demonstrate a full-color head study. The students will then make one of their own.

Day 2: Composition and Pose

We will begin the day talking about composition. I will work with the model to establish a pose and lighting, using my camera equipment as a sketch book to record different poses and lighting, sharing my thinking as I do so.

Transferring the resulting photographs to a laptop, I will then choose the composition I feel works best, sharing this thought process with the class. We will then make photographs from each student's point of view so that everyone has an establishing shot of the model to work with.

Day 3-5: Developing the Portrait

We will make a quick black and white value study to pin down our compositions and make decisions about what to keep from the photographs and what to simplify. We will then draw this composition up onto a larger support in readiness for spending the remainder of the week completing a full colour portrait from our sketches, photographs and the live model.



The final stages of a complex demonstration

Booking

To book David to teach a workshop for your group:

email: david@davidgoatley.com

To view more of David's work:

www.davidgoatley.com



A running commentary and questions from the students are important components to every demo.

A good workshop is one where there is a continuing active collaboration between the teacher and each student. I endeavor to give each student individual attention as well as addressing the group on topics of mutual interest. I encourage students to learn from each other, through observation of technique and approach, as well as from my demonstrations and instruction.

We are in this together.

