

CIVITA

Experiential Dimension of Design

A Watercolor and Charcoal Drawing
Workshop

at The Civita Institute in Civita di Bagnoregio, Italy

May 30 – June 4, 2024

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Introduction

Proficiency in freehand drawing is crucial in creative fields, as it equips practitioners with a valuable tool for design exploration and creativity. In individual pursuits, freehand drawing is a potent skill within creative domains such as architecture, design, and art when fully developed. The ability to draw and paint opens many possibilities in these fields. It can be employed as a vehicle for design thinking or purely as a form of artistic expression, offering endless opportunities. To reach full maturity and confidence in drawing and painting, repetitive practice is an essential component of this process.

Furthermore, immersive in-situ painting and drawing experiences play a vital role in this equation. Engaging with one's environment in a meaningful and constructive way enables the transformation of a three-dimensional setting onto a two-dimensional paper surface through drawing or painting, strengthening the synaptic connection of hand-eye coordination. Additionally, in-situ painting practice enriches our sense of scale in design. It encourages constant visual measurement of the environment based on the perception of our bodies. In conclusion, the benefits of in-situ drawing and painting practice extend beyond skill attainment; They provide access to an experiential dimension of design and creativity that cannot be replicated through other forms of training.

In this workshop, we will immerse ourselves in the breathtaking landscape of Civita di Bagnoregio, a medieval hill town in Lazio, Italy. We will use this picturesque town and its surrounding natural beauty as our subjects for practice. The workshop will alternate between charcoal drawing and watercolor painting. The approach is deliberate: charcoal drawing will enhance our ability to work with tonal values in drawing, which is essential. Simultaneously, watercolor will allow us to explore color as an emotional expression. Using both media, we aim to bring a poetic quality to our work.

Nonetheless, the workshop remains centered on developing fundamental skills, particularly in perspectival drawing. Therefore, the workshop is perfect for participants with any level of skill. By limiting our tools to charcoal and watercolor, we will maintain a focused environment that supports concentration. The workshop will be limited to only 4-5 participants to foster



a constructive learning atmosphere. With a small group, there will be ample opportunities for one-on-one critiques and feedback for each participant. Upon enrolling in this workshop, each participant will receive access to online learning materials created by the instructor. These materials will help you warm up your skills in perspective sketch and freehand drawing before you travel to Civita for our in-situ workshop. Finally, by enrolling in this workshop, we will gain access to the magnificent facilities of the Civita Institute, where our primary indoor practice space includes a beautiful workshop area located on the lower floor of Lo Studio apartment.

Itinerary

5 nights with 4 full days of Instruction and Practice

DAY 1: Arrival in Civita (May 30)

- 4:00 pm: Arrive in Civita
- 7:30 pm: Welcome Dinner at Osteria al Forno di Agnese

DAY 2: Workshop (May 31)

- 8:00 am: Group Coffee
- 8:30 am: Walk to Bagnoregio for first On-site Charcoal Practice and buying groceries
- 2:00 – 5:00 pm: Studio watercolor lessons, explore watercolor consistencies and conditions
Dinner on your own

DAY 3: Workshop (June 1)

- 7:30 – 9:00 am: On-Site Watercolor Lessons in Civita
- 10:00 am: Studio charcoal practice: tonal values, edges, focus and peripheral visions
- 12:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Studio watercolor lessons, exploring watercolor layering process
- 6:00 pm: On-site charcoal drawing lessons in Civita, focusing on one-point perspective
- 8:00 pm: Dinner on your own

DAY 4: Workshop (June 2)

- 7:30 – 9:00 am: On-Site Watercolor Lesson in Civita
- 10:00 am: Studio charcoal practice: evocative expression in charcoal drawing with light
- 12:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Studio watercolor lessons, loose painting, focus and peripheral vision in painting
- 5:00 pm: On-site charcoal drawing lessons in Civita
- 8:00 pm: Dinner on your own

DAY 5: Workshop (June 3)

- 7:30 – 9:00 am: On-Site Watercolor Lesson in Civita
- 10:00 am: Studio watercolor final practice: evocative expression.
- 12:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 2:00 – 5:00 pm: Lesson reviews, presentation and final discussion
- 7:00 pm: Farewell Dinner as a group

DAY 6: Departure (June 4)

- 8:30 am: Farewell coffee
- 9:00 am: Walk to Bagnoregio taxi/bus, transfer to Orvieto bus or train



Workshop Lodging and Donation



The workshop will utilize The Civita Institute's beautiful facilities, which include the studio space for the workshop and the apartments. The Civita Institute, based in Seattle, WA, is a non-profit organization with a focus on architecture, arts, and education. The workshop cost and lodging donation are paid separately. The Civita Institute is a nonprofit membership organization and it does not provide lodging on a commercial basis. However, members are allowed to stay at the Civita Institute facilities depending upon the amount of their membership contributions as described in this program booklet. The lodging **donation which will be distributed** to the Civita Institute* by the instructor. This donation includes a one-year membership with the organization.

There are two apartments available for workshop participants and guests: IL Ruderino and IL Nuovo (Please see details below). The apartments are fully furnished with a full kitchen, bathroom, linens, and are stocked with some grocery basics. Groceries can be purchased in Bagnoregio (a 30-minute walk from Civita), but you will have to carry them back to Civita. Walking back and forth from Civita to Bagnoregio can be a pleasant activity in the late afternoon. Additionally, Civita has restaurants that serve reasonably priced light breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Apartments are reserved on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please contact Otto as soon as possible to reserve a space. If the Civita Institute apartments are filled, please contact Otto for lodging options in Civita.

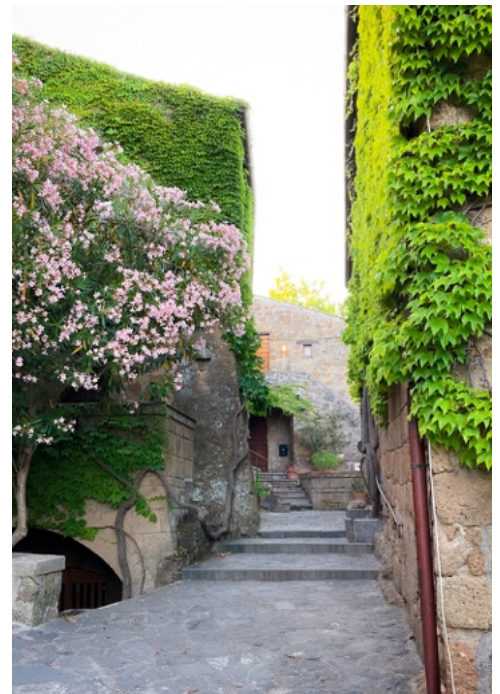
**Note: The Civita Institute operates under NIAUSI (the Northwest Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in Italy), and is a US 501.c.3 non-profit organization*

IL NUOVO

Three people sharing for 5 nights: US\$425 per person. Two people sharing for 5 nights: US\$600 per person. One person for 5 nights: US\$1,125. The donation includes a one-year Civita Institute membership.

A 2-story, fully furnished apartment with a kitchen, a living room with a fireplace, and a drawing/painting space. The apartment can accommodate 3 people for sleeping on the upper floor. The kitchen will be stocked with basic groceries upon your arrival. Wi-Fi and laundry facilities are included. The apartment does not have air-conditioning, but fans are available, and there are adequate windows for cross ventilation, and the thick tufa stone walls keep the apartment cool during the summer months

IL Nuovo is a great option for a single traveler who is willing to share space and reduce lodging costs. If you are interested in sharing IL Nuovo with other workshop participants, please let Otto know as soon as possible.



View of the main entrance to the Civita's apartment facilities during summer months

Workshop Lodging and Donation

IL NUOVO

Note: All images on this page were retrieved from the Civita Institute webpage.



Kitchen View 1 on the main floor



Bedroom View 1 on the upper floor



Bedroom View 2 on the upper floor



Back stair to outside from kitchen



Kitchen View 2 on the main floor



IL Nuovo bathroom

Workshop Lodging and Donation



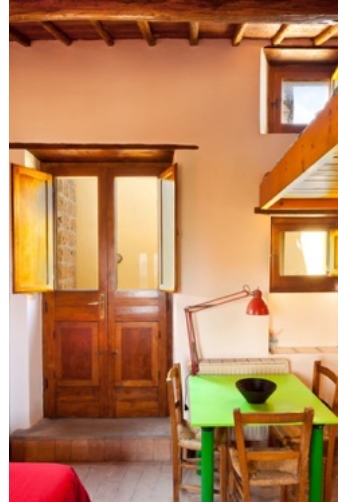
Civita night atmosphere

IL RUDERINO

Note: All apartment images on this page were retrieved from the Civita Institute webpage.

IL Ruderino can accommodate up to two people — US\$155/night, and US\$775 for five (5) nights. The donation includes one year Civita Institute membership.

This charming one-room studio apartment is located on the second floor of the Civita Institute facilities. The apartment's window overlooks a beautiful garden and provides a picturesque view of the Civita landscape. This option accommodates 1-2 people and features two twin beds, making it perfect for a couple or two individuals. The kitchen will be stocked with essential groceries upon your arrival. Wi-Fi and laundry facilities are included. Please note that the apartment does not have air-conditioning, but fans are available, and there are windows for cross ventilation and light. The thick tufa stone walls help maintain a comfortable temperature inside, keeping the apartment cool during the summer months.



A charming one-room studio apartment



Workshop Lodging and Donation



LODGING DONATION:

The lodging contribution will be distributed directly to the Civita Institute, a non-profit organization by the instructor.

Please select your preferred apartment, and notify the instructor, Otto. If the selected apartment is available, you will be informed, then you will make a donation to reserved your lodging through Venmo or Zelle or mail a check to Otto Chanyakorn. Mailing information will be provided upon registration.

If the Civita Institute's apartments are filled during the workshop duration, please indicate that you are open for alternative lodging options in Civita.

Total donation for workshop lodging option:

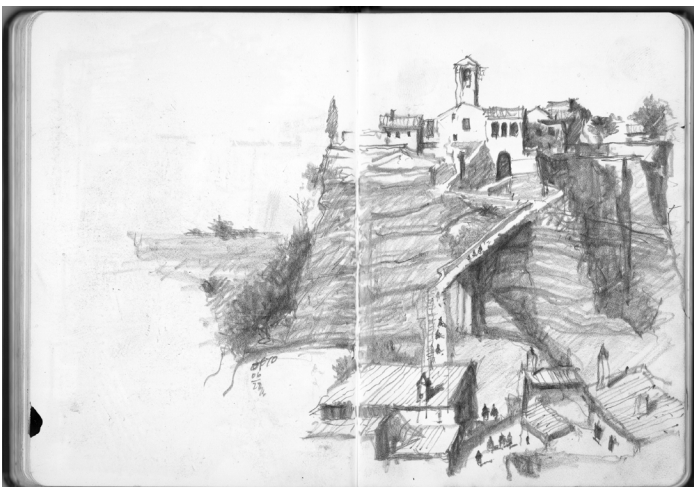
- **IL Nuovo:** accommodate 3 guests. This apartment will be reserved for a solo, a couple or a group travelers. For sharing, cost per person is US\$425 for five (5) nights. Two people sharing for 5 nights: US\$625/person. One person for 5 nights: US\$1,125.
- **IL Ruderino:** accommodates 1–2 guest, 5 nights, total US\$775

Note: The donation include a one-year Civita Institute membership

Lodging Donation Deadline:

Please reserve a spot ASAP. Space is limited.

April 15, 2024: Lodging payment for 5 night with the Civita Institute's apartments due by check or Venmo or Zelle.



Workshop Cost

Workshop Cost: Paid directly to Instructor

Cost of the workshop is US\$800/person. To secure a spot, a US\$400 deposit is received by **March 15, 2024**. The workshop cost will increase to US\$900/person if deposit is received after March 15, 2024.

Workshop payment included:

- Four (4) full day of immersive instruction, practice and one-on-one critiques
- This is a small group workshop (only 4 – 5 people) for an effective learning and constructive feedback purposes.
- Access to an internet Wi-Fi
- Access to laundry facilities which included washing machine, air dry area, and laundry soap provided)
- Basic grocery items: coffee, milk, cheese, Olive oil, crackers, and cookies

You are responsible for:

- Transportation to Italy and to Civita. Detailed instructions on how to travel from Rome to Orvieto by train and then take a bus from Orvieto to Civita will be provided.
- Meals: Each participant will be responsible for his/her own breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The apartment's kitchen is a great option for preparing your meals, especially for breakfast. Alternatively, there are excellent restaurants in Civita for lunches and dinners.

During my 2023 summer fellowship in Civita, walking to Bagnoregio for dinner and getting groceries in the late afternoon is one of my favorite activities.

- Workshop supplies such as a watercolor painting set, charcoal drawing set, and paper. The list of required supplies will be provided after you enroll in the workshop.
- Medical insurance coverage while traveling, as well as any required vaccinations.
- Civita is accessible via a walking bridge, so walking is necessary to travel from Bagnoregio to Civita and vice versa. It's advisable to have a good pair of walking shoes.



Workshop Payment Deadlines:

- **March 15, 2024:** Workshop Deposit (Non-Refundable) Due: US\$400 by check to Otto Chanyakorn or Venmo or Zelle. After March 15, workshop cost will increase to US\$900.
- **April 15, 2024:** Balance of payment is due to “Otto Chanaykorn” for workshop. (Non-refundable)

Note:

No refund of the \$400 deposit for cancellations received less than 6 weeks before the workshop day. **In the event the workshop is canceled, all deposits and payment will be returned in full.**

Getting There

Civita di Bagnoregio is located in Lazio and is a well-known destination among both Italian and foreign travelers, situated in a picturesque landscape.

For international visitors, you may choose to fly into either Rome or Florence, and then take a train to Orvieto. From Orvieto train station, you can catch a regional Cortal Bus to Bagnoregio. Taxi services are also available from Orvieto and can take you to the belvedere at the top of the hill. Detailed instructions on how to reach Civita will be provided to participants upon workshop registration.

All participants are required to have medical insurance that covers accidents or hospitalization in Italy. Short-term traveler's insurance is available through several providers.

Please be prepared for some intensive walking, especially going up and down the hill between Civita and Bagnoregio. It's advisable to bring a comfortable pair of walking shoes. Packing lightly is recommended. Since the workshop takes place in the summer, make sure to bring items such as a sun hat, repellent, sunscreen, earplugs, and other related necessities.



Civita night atmosphere



About the instructor



Otto Chanyakorn was born in the rural area of northeast Thailand. Growing up on his family's farmland, he spent most of his childhood outdoors, significantly influencing his appreciation of natural elements. This, in turn, shaped his design approach, with a focus on the experiential dimension of design and the development of a design sensibility using drawing as a gateway to establish a deep connection with nature.

After completing his undergraduate degree in architecture, he worked as an architect in Bangkok and Chiang Mai since 2004. In 2010, he moved to the US and earned his master's degree in architecture at Southern Illinois University (SIUC) in 2013. Before joining Kansas State University (K-State) in 2019, Otto taught various courses, including foundation design, urban design, building technology, and digital architecture, at the School of Architecture at SIUC for six years.

At K-State, Otto is passionate about teaching foundation design. His primary goal is to help students develop their design foundation and visual communication skills during their formative years. Otto encourages students to effectively articulate their design ideas and thoughts through imagery, particularly in freehand drawing. He fosters an appreciation for the intrinsic value of freehand drawing in design thinking and communication. In addition to his design studio and digital courses, Otto also teaches graduate students watercolor painting, using painting as a gateway to enhance the experiential dimension in design that engages various senses of our body.

Ultimately, his interest in drawing and painting serves as a doorway to developing an experiential dimension and design embodiment in architecture. In 2020, he was awarded the Gabriel Prize by Western European Architecture. In 2023, Otto received the 2023 Drexler Family Diversity Fellowship from The Civita Institute. In addition to his academic responsibilities, Otto regularly conducts workshops on freehand drawing and watercolor to promote design thinking for various professional organizations. He consistently shares his creative work in drawings and paintings through his website: www.minimaldrawing.com.