



CIVITA

Experiential Dimension of Design

A Watercolor and Drawing Workshop

in Collaboration with The Civita Institute in Civita di Bagnoregio, Italy

May 27 – June 1, 2026



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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 possibilities. 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.

This Workshop is a collaboration with The Civita Institute, a nonprofit organization with a historic facility in Italy. 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 drawing and watercolor painting. The approach is deliberate: Graphite 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 perspective drawing. Therefore, the workshop is perfect for participants with any level of skill. By limiting our tools to graphite and watercolor, we will



Example photo from the workshop held in the summer of 2024.

maintain a focused environment that supports concentration. The workshop will be limited to only 6 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 and its lovely garden.

For more information about The Civita Institute, please visit the web site at www.civitainstitute.org.

This workshop is approved by the American Institute of Architects for 8 Learning Units. The Civita Institute is an approved AIA education provider.

Itinerary

5 nights with 4 full days of Instruction and Practice

DAY 1: Arrival in Civita (May 27)

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

DAY 2: Workshop (May 28)

- 8:30 am: Group Coffee
- 9 – 12 pm: Workshop Introduction and Studio Practice
- 2– 5 pm: Studio watercolor lessons, explore watercolor consistencies and conditions
Dinner on your own

DAY 3: Workshop (May 29)

- 8 –10 am: On-Site Graphite Drawing Lessons in Civita
- 11 am: Studio Graphite Drawing practice: tonal values, edges, focus and peripheral visions
- 12 pm: Lunch on your own
- 2 – 4 pm: Studio watercolor lessons, exploring watercolor layering process
- 6:00 pm: On-site Monochrome lessons in Civita, focusing on one–point perspective and tonal values in painting
- 8:00 pm: Dinner on your own

DAY 4: Workshop (May 30)

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



View from a window of Lo Studio Apartment on the second floor.

DAY 5: Workshop (May 31)

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

DAY 6: Departure (June 1)

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

Each workshop member who participates in the workshop is required to complete [a one-year membership online](#), costing \$75, with the Civita Institute.

Workshop Testimony and Pictures

Otto,

Thank you for the pictures, it's great to see everyone again. It was one of the best times of my life to spend time with you all and I hope I'll have a chance to do it again sometime in the future. And thanks for all your help with learning about drawing and painting, you're a great teacher. I'll be more than happy to highly recommend your workshop to anyone I can. Let me know if you need a recommendation for your foundation. And let me know if you wind up doing online classes, I'd be very interested in continuing to work on developing some skills.

Thanks again and safe travels,

Bill Bourque RA

Otto

Thanks to you for a successful workshop. It was very worthwhile for me personally. I know Bill feels the same.

Douglas Devlin, Principal



Picture from the 2024 workshop during the final review and discussion.



Picture of the workshop's in-situ watercolor practice in Civita.



Picture of the in-studio practice with a real-time demonstration by the instructor projected on the screen, allowing each workshop member to practice in a comfortable setting.



In-situ watercolor practice in Piazza Donato

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 contribution will be paid to the instructor, who will forward it to The Civita Institute. In addition, only members of the Civita Institute are allowed to reside at the Civita Institute facilities. Each program participant must enroll online as a member of the Civita Institute at the \$75 annual level at least two weeks prior to the program start.

There are four(4) apartments available for workshop participants and guests: **Lo Studio, IL Ruderino, IL Giardino 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.

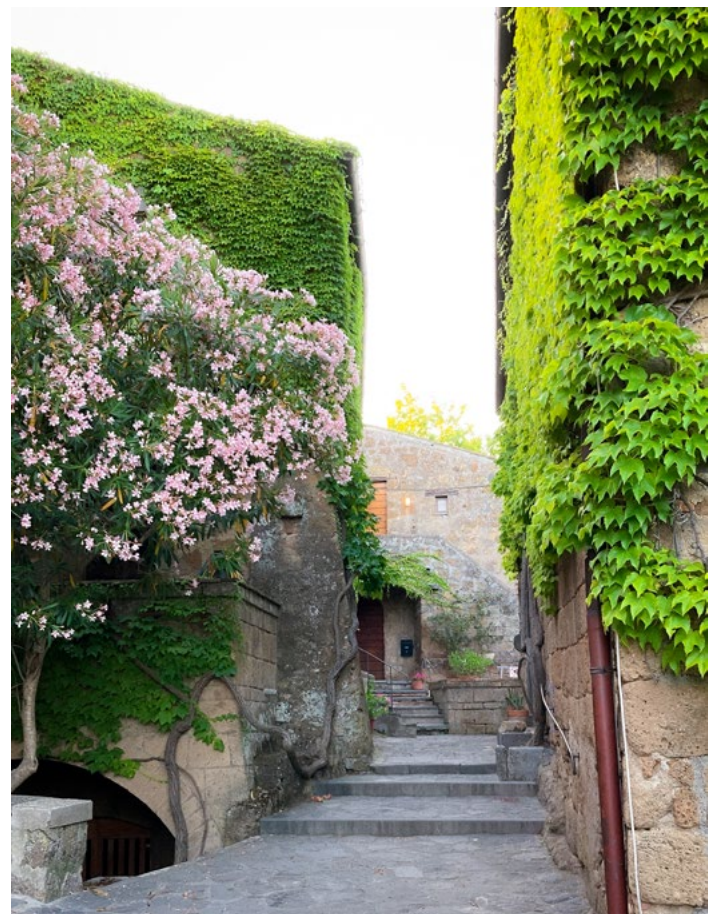
Apartments are reserved on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please contact Otto as soon as possible to reserve a space.

**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*

LO STUDIO

Four people sharing for 5 nights: US\$325 per person. Three people sharing for 5 nights: US\$435 per person. Two people sharing for 5 night: US\$650 per person. One person for 5 nights: US\$1,300.

This house can accommodate four persons in either four single beds or two singles plus a matrimonial, in the upstairs bedroom. The kitchen, living room (with fireplace) and half bathroom are on the ground level, with bathroom with shower on the bedroom level. There is a small terrace with a vine-covered arbor overlooking the pedestrian street and beautiful views of adjacent buildings and the distant landscape from the second level.



*View of the main entrance to the Civita's apartment facilities during summer months
The building on the left of the photo is Lo Studio Apartment.*

Workshop Lodging and Donation

LO STUDIO, Photos

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



View of Lo Studio's Bedroom on the second floor



View of Lo Studio's Kitchen

Workshop Lodging and Donation

IL NUOVO

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

Three people sharing for 5 nights: US\$335 per person. Two people sharing for 5 nights: US\$500 per person. One person for 5 nights: US\$1,000.

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.



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

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Workshop Lodging and Donation



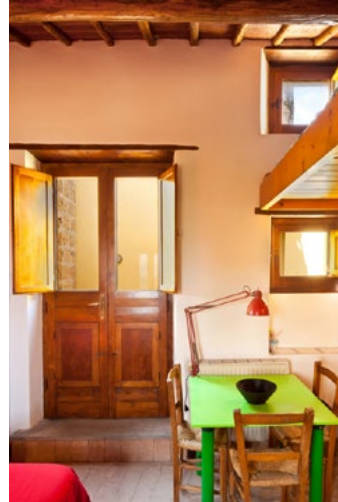
Civita night atmosphere

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\$140/night, and US\$700 for five (5) nights.

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



Photo of the main courtyard at the Civita Institute during summer 2025.

The Giardino Residence

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

The Giardino Residence can accommodate up to two people — US\$150/night, and US\$750 for five (5) nights.

The Giardino (Garden) residence is a restored historic suite of rooms, including a small private kitchen, bathroom with walk-in shower, and bedroom, all surrounded by a terrace and garden with wonderful views of the valley and distant landscapes. This one-bedroom residence is most suitable for a couple or a single person.



A charming one-room studio apartment

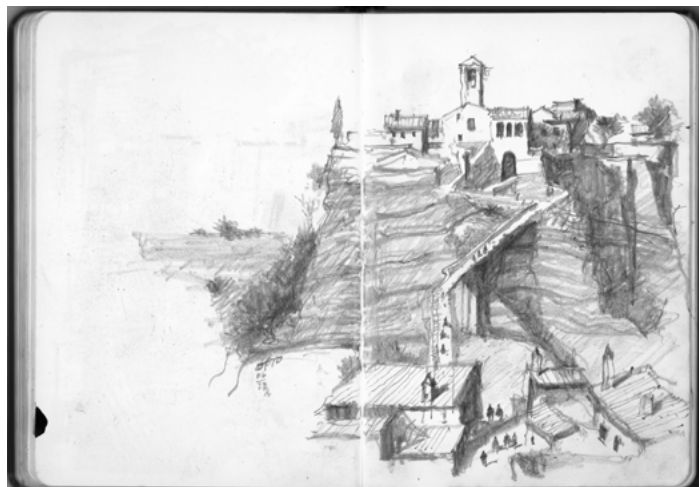


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Workshop Lodging and Donation



Charcoal drawing by Instructor



Study Drawing by Instructor

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:

- **Lo Studio:** accommodates up to 4 guests. The apartment will be reserved for four people sharing for 5 nights: US\$325 per person. Three people sharing for 5 nights: US\$435 per person. Two people sharing for 5 night: US\$650 per person. One person for 5 nights: US\$1,300.

- **IL Nuovo:** accommodates up to 3 guests. This apartment will be reserved for a solo, a couple or a group travelers. For sharing, cost per person is US\$335 for five (5) nights. Two people sharing for 5 nights: US\$500/person. One person for 5 nights: US\$1,000.

- **IL Ruderino:** accommodates 1 – 2 guest, 5 nights, total US\$700

- **The Giardino Residence:** accommodate 2 guests. This apartment will be reserved for a solo, or a couple For sharing, Two people sharing for 5 nights: US\$375/person. One person for 5 nights: US\$750.

Each workshop member who participates in the workshop is required to enroll in complete [a one-year membership online](#), costing \$75, with the Civita Institute as further described above.

Lodging Donation Deadline:

Please reserve a spot ASAP. Space is limited.

March 1, 2026: Lodging payment for 5 night with the Civita Institute's apartments due by check or Venmo or Zelle. to be paid to the instructor.

Workshop Cost

Workshop Cost & Lodging Contributions:

Paid directly to Instructor

Cost of the workshop is \$1,000/person To reserve a spot, a nonrefundable deposit of \$500 must be paid to the Instructor. The additional \$500 workshop fee plus the entire lodging contribution must be received by the instructor by **March 1, 2026**. Not refund of any payment will be made if canceled by the participant(s) unless the participant(s) secures replacement participants covering all costs. **We strongly recommend** that participant(s) purchase trip insurance to cover the costs of airfare, lodging, and the workshop fee.

Workshop payment included:

- Four (4) full day of immersive instruction, practice and one-on-one critiques
- This is a small group workshop (only 6-8 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, Graphite 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.



Watercolor by Instructor

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.

All participants are also required to sign and comply with the Civita Institute's Visitor Conditions which will be provided to each applicant.



Civita night atmosphere

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.



Watercolor & Drawing by Instructor



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, which significantly influenced his appreciation of natural elements. This, in turn, shaped his design approach and appreciation for art, focusing on the experiential dimension of design and developing both a design and artistic sensibility. He uses drawing and painting as gateways to establish a deep connection with nature and developing design empathy

Since the spring of 2022, Otto has been traveling back to central Italy every year for various reasons, such as semester-long teaching, fellowships, and leading professional workshops in drawing and painting. His love of art, culture, and people has been a primary motivation for him to continue devoting his time to painting, drawing, and design.

At K-State, Otto is passionate about teaching foundation design. His primary goal is to nurture students’ visual communication and artistic skills during their formative years. He encourages students to articulate their design ideas and thoughts effectively through drawing, with a particular emphasis on freehand techniques. Otto fosters an appreciation for the intrinsic value of freehand drawing in art, design thinking, and communication.

In addition to teaching design studio courses, Otto also instructs graduate students in watercolor painting, using it as a gateway to enhance experiential embodiment and design sensibilities.

In 2020, he was awarded the Gabriel Prize by Western European Architecture, which allowed him to spend three months in Paris completing his fellowship. In 2023, he received the Drexler Family Diversity Fellowship from The Civita Institute. Beyond his academic responsibilities, Otto regularly conducts workshops on freehand drawing and watercolor to promote design thinking and artistic expression for various professional organizations. He consistently shares his creative work—drawings and paintings—through his website: www.minimaldrawing.com.