

Tuesday, 5 August

Arrival of participants

17.00-18.00

Introductions: course participants and teaching staff.

A brief history of drawing as a technique

Exposition of course objectives and work techniques, with visual exemplifications of each technique and step.

Video projections on various drawing techniques: coal, charred wood, various minerals and vegetal dyes used at the dawn of time in cave drawing, in the preparation stages of fresco painting (ancient Egypt, ancient Rome, Europe in the Middle Ages); the "sgraffito"-type drawing, made by scratching the surface of fresh clay (Mesopotamia, Sumer, China) or stone (Egypt).

Visual examples of the main traditional painting techniques, past to present: painting with mineral dyes, with organic pigments (from plants or animals), the main types of bonding media (lime, casein, linen oil, various vegetal resins, acryl or polyvinyl-based gels) used in mixing colours, as well as the surfaces used to paint on (cave wall, temple wall, wood boards treated against chemical corrosion, linen canvas, synthetic fibre canvas, metal, various materials obtained by chemical synthesis).

Oil-on-canvas painting – the first great revolution in painting (invented by the van Eyck brothers); using fast-drying media and lacquers, which allowed a faithful, almost photographic reproduction of material details of the objects depicted.

Painting had the additional role of witness to the nature and spirit of the times, a role later taken on partially by photography, video and the media.

The second great revolution (in technique and concept) in the field of visual arts and of painting: painting in acrylic colours (and other chemical-synthesis pigments). This meant a shorter time for each painting and the possibility of combining any number of painting techniques, due to the short time needed for pigments to dry and the possibility of adding an unlimited number of layers of colour.

A brief illustrated history of art, for the exemplification of the major techniques, both in drawing and in paint.