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# Weir Farm Art Academy

*American Impressionism Plein Air Workshops*

@ WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

*The only national park dedicated to painting*

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DMITRI WRIGHT

*An American Artist in the Tradition*

Master Artist/Instructor for Weir Farm National Historic Site, National Park Service



*It is with great gratitude I thank the staff of the Weir Farm National Historic Site for their support of the Weir Farm Art Academy in helping to develop a new generation of American Impressionists.*

*And for my students, who continually give me inspiration in supporting their growth in their art, I thank you.*



[www.dmitriwright.com](http://www.dmitriwright.com)

[www.DmitriWrightWorkshops.com](http://www.DmitriWrightWorkshops.com)

# REGISTRATION

WEIR FARM ART ACADEMY

## REGISTRATION FORM 2018

Name

Address

Home or Work Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Emergency Contact Name and Cell Phone

**Students are welcomed to register for one or all the workshops. Limited spaces available due to the environmental impact and to maximize learning.**

CIRCLE THE DATES YOU ARE REGISTERING FORM

4 WORKSHOP SESSIONS FOR 2018

- JUNE 23 & 24
- JULY 14 & 15
- SEPT 15 & 16
- OCT 20 & 21

### **\$225.00 per Workshop Session**

Master Artist/Instructor for Weir Farm Art Academy @ Weir Farm National Historic Site, NPS

Check payable to: Dmitri Wright Fine Art

Mail to: 106 Hunting Ridge Road

Greenwich CT 06831

Studio: 203-832-3325

[www.WeirFarmArtAcademy.org](http://www.WeirFarmArtAcademy.org)

Paypal account: DmitriWrightFineArt@gmail.com

## WEIR FARM ART ACADEMY: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### ♦ Welcome by the Weir Farm Park Rangers

- ✓ Lecture on the Theory and Concepts used by the Impressionists
- ✓ Demonstrations on the Academy techniques used by the Americans
- ✓ Demonstrations on the Impressionist methods used by the Americans
- ✓ Immediate application in the field of techniques and methods to put into practice
- ✓ One-on-one Instruction
- ✓ Group Critique
- ✓ Tour of Weir's studio and home

In a global overview of the Academy and its history in relationship to Impressionism, each student will learn the Academy skills used by the American master impressionists, how they evolved and how they can be used for today's artist in capturing what is before them in plein air and studio work.

In understanding the visual language of the Impressionists, the student will be able to identify where they fall within the different schools of thought within the Tree of Impressionism. This type of discovery allows one to apply the Impressionist's principles and to translate and interpret them in developing one's own visual narrative.

By applying the technical methods in the field with Dmitri's multi-dimensional teaching methods, each student will obtain new skills and tools for working in the 'Preservation and Progress' model of American Impressionism.

I. Introduction to Impressionism, Plein Air

II. Drawing: Academy Skills

III. Painting: Impressionist Skills

IV. Plein Air Field Work

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*Weir Farm is a haven for artistic transformation*

### WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Weir Farm National Historic Site, the only unit in the National Park System dedicated to painting, and was home to three generations of American artists. <http://www.nps.gov/wefa/index.htm>

The 60-acre park, which includes the Weir House, Weir and Young studios, barns, outbuildings, gardens, fields, stonewalls, and Weir Pond is one of the nation's finest remaining landscapes for American art. The park is located in the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton in the Southwest Hills Ecoregion of southern Connecticut. It includes successional old fields, successional hardwood forests, vernal wetland areas, streams, a pond, and rocky ridges.

#### **Studio Location:**

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The Burlingham Barn at Weir Farm NHS is home base for the entire length of the workshops. A complete studio environment is set up with chairs, tables, lighting and heat along with bathrooms and water. Your equipment will be locked up in the barn each night by the park rangers.

<http://www.nps.gov/wefa/historyculture/places-burlinghambarn.htm>

#### **Maps of the Park:**

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<http://www.nps.gov/wefa/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

#### **Parking for Weir Farm Art Academy Students:**

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Parking is limited in the park due to environmental concerns. Weir Art Academy students have access to the parking facility used by Weir Farm NHS group visitors at the G&B Cultural Center which is offsite. Arrival and departure will be at the G&B Cultural Center at the meeting place for all groups and classes visiting the park. No exceptions.

#### **Transportation up to Weir Farm:**

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Students are to arrive at the G&B Cultural Center at 9:30 am. Car pooling is necessary and available. Since workshop lessons end at 3:00 pm, we will return back to the parking lot park no later than 3:30 pm.

### **Directions to G&B Cultural Center:**

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49 New Street, Wilton, CT 06897. At the intersection of Route 7 and Redding Road Route #107, make turn onto Route #107. Take right onto New Street. Drive pass the G&B Center to the large back parking lot to the left of the center. This lot is for Weir Farm NHS groups.

### **Housing for Out of State students:**

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Weir Farm is located in Branchville a hamlet situated in the towns of Wilton and Ridgefield, a few miles from Danbury. Nearby B&Bs offer lovely economical accommodations in addition to nearby motels and hotels. Call for suggestions.

### **Refreshments:**

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Coffee and Tea is available in the morning for students.

Excellent food shopping is next to the G&B Cultural Center parking facility for purchasing your brown bag lunches. Spring water is available all day to refill your reusable water bottles. A refrigerator is available for lunch storage. Bathroom facilities are also in the heated barn.

### **Equipment:**

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Students are expected to be able to travel the trails and are responsible to carry in and carry out all of their own equipment and garbage. Portable easels and art supplies are the responsibility of the students. Accommodations are available for the disabled.

### **Inclement weather:**

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Unless the park is closed to all visitors, workshops are held regardless of the weather. The heated Burlingham Barn is set up for painting the views through the one wall of floor to ceiling windows.

### **Park Policies:**

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Weir Farm National Historic Site is a national park. All of the park's natural and cultural resources are protected and all visitors are asked to observe the Leave No Trace principles. Leave No Trace extends the National Park Service mission to you, the visitor, and challenges us all to *"...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."* [Organic Act, 1916]

## BEST PRACTICES FOR PLEIN AIR

### STEWARDS OF CREATIVITY

Weir Farm Art Academy is in partnership with the Weir Farm National Historic Site. The park's model is to protect and preserve its natural landscape and historic structures. Weir Art Academy being in line with the goals of this National Treasure has established with the park rangers best practices and an environmental stewardship ethic for all of its plein air workshops. Dmitri Wright's "Preservation and Progress of Impressionism" model of teaching includes this 'Stewards of Creativity' policy to work en plein air minimal disturbance to the ecosystem.

#### **Upon graduation students will have experienced:**

- ◆ Setting up their own outdoor studio to work effectively as an Impressionist with minimal environmental effect at their painting site.
- ◆ Breaking down their own outdoor studio; the best way to store their Impressionist drawings and paintings, and proper way to recycle and dispose of their materials.

Nature is home and subject matter for plein air painters, which inspires Weir Art Academy students to thrive.

#### **Best practices for use and disposal of fine art materials to be discussed:**

- ◆ Travel light and bring only what you need. Impressionists are known for their limited palette.
- ◆ Repurpose and Recycle.
- ◆ Whatever you carry in you must carry out. Bring garbage bags along with spill and break proof containers to hold your own liquids and materials.
- ◆ Read and understand artist materials. Do not ignore Care Labels. Whatever harms you, harms the environment.
- ◆ Adjust your creative process to using best practices. Less is more.

## **Environment**

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- ◆ No one is permitted to pour any liquids containing medium or paints down the sink or clean brushes there. Dmitri's alternatives will be available using the portable bucket provided in the class.
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## **Sound travels**

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- ◆ While outside keep conversations to a minimum, cell phones or music off. Sound echo and travels far in the natural environment.



## SUPPLY LIST

### DRAWING

- ✓ Artist Journal to take notes for Sketching and Studies
- ✓ Pocket size drawing pad for field Sketches and Studies
- ✓ Multiple Purpose Drawing Pad for Sketches, Drawings and Wash Drawings
- ✓ Artist Marker with Calligraphy Brush Tip for Sketches and Studies
- ✓ Graphite Pencil for Studies
- ✓ Bamboo Pen or Japanese Brush also known as a Sumi brush or a good Watercolor brush for Ink Drawings.
- ✓ Sumi ink, black ink ,or black water based paint

### PAINTING

- ✓ 3 Pre primed panels or stretched canvases
- ✓ Panel carrier
- ✓ Plein air lightweight field easel
- ✓ Palette
- ✓ Set of Filbert Paintbrushes (Bristle # 1, 2, 4, 6, 8,10,12)
- ✓ One flat three-inch wide house painting brush
- ✓ Large and small painting knife
- ✓ Vehicles such as odorless artist turpentine for oil or water for acrylic
- ✓ 2 portable spill proof containers for cleaning brushes and painting

### SUGGESTED PIGMENTS

- ✓ Limited palette of Pigments: Red - (Cadmium), Orange (Cadmium), Yellow(Cadmium), Green (Emerald), Blue (Cobalt), Indigo (Blue), Violet (Purple) White Large (Titanium)
- ✓ Extended palette of Pigments: Large Titanium White, Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow Medium, Cadmium Orange, Cadmium Red Light, Alizarin Crimson, Emerald Green, Viridian Green, Cerulean Blue, Cobalt Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Mauve, Black

### SUGGESTED PANELS

- ✓ Medium cotton texture by Raymor
- ✓ Butterfly Oil Primed Linen Plein Air – double-sided surface.
- ✓ Purchase a drawing pad to be the same dimension of your painting surfaces. This should be 9x12 or no larger than 12x16 since large painting surfaces can be kites in the wind.

## OTHER

- ✓ Paper towels and or rags. Rags should be cut to the same size as paper towels.
- ✓ Plastic bags for garbage
- ✓ Pliers for opening paint tubes
- ✓ Plumb line
- ✓ View finder

## PERSONAL ESSENTIALS

- ✓ Cell phone
- ✓ ID
- ✓ Wide brim hat
- ✓ Eyeglasses
- ✓ Sun glasses

Tip: wear your sunglasses up to the point of when you are going to paint, since they will distort your colors. However, do not do anything that will tax your eyes or look directly into the sun.

## NOTES

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## FOR EVERY DAY READINESS

### A GO BAG

Cut your stress, have a Go Bag with all of your basics 'on the ready'. You could have one in your car or one in your studio. Be ready to go to take advantage of those chance encounters in nature. This approach is good for people who have limited time. Since the Go Bag is used for scouting out places, it should be ergonomic and light, leaving you agile.

Tip: I use an Artist Back Pack for my Go Bag.

- ✓ Drawing Supplies and Artist Journal
- ✓ Binoculars – light weight
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Compass – for hiking
- ✓ Cell phone car charger
- ✓ Energy Bar & Water bottle or Thermos
- ✓ First aid kit - mini
- ✓ Garbage bag – what you carry in, you carry out
- ✓ Map of the trails, obtained at the Park
- ✓ Poison Ivy, Bug Repellent and Tick Prevention
- ✓ Seat – pad for the ground or a tripod seat, we have pads for sitting on the ground
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Umbrella – for plein artist – not only to be used for rain, but if it is white, it can diffuse the light

**All students will receive the Weir Farm Art Academy Workbook along with other handout notes. See Table of Contents listing the Curriculum below taken from the Workbook you will receive on the 1st day.**

