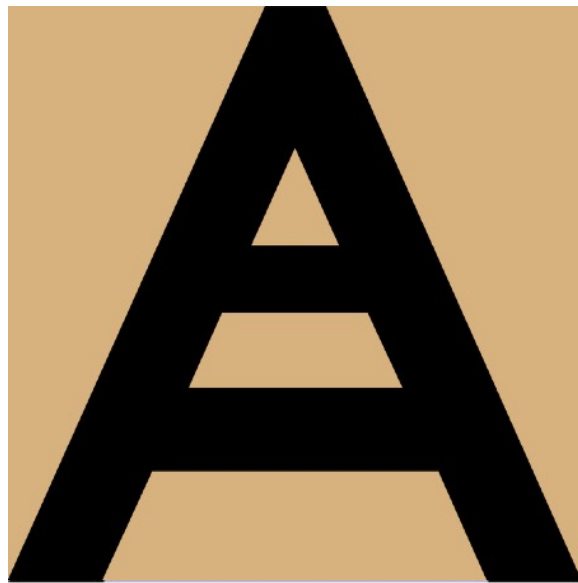




THE • ART
ACADEMY

ADVANCED PORTRAIT WORKSHOP
ROBIN ELEY

January 8-12, 2026
Adelaide, South Australia

ADVANCED PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

January 8-12, 2026

In this 5-day course students will be guided by Robin Eley through the process of creating a successful portrait from scratch. Designed as an extension of the Oil Painting Workshop, this advanced course will teach the technical aspects of portraiture, from posing and lighting a subject to painting specific features such as the eyes, hair and mouth through a series of demonstrations and exercises. Students will also learn how to think critically and conceptually about portraiture as a contemporary art form through a series of lectures and discussions.

Students of Art Academy courses have gone on to win numerous national art prizes and final in every major portrait prize in Australia including over a dozen times in the Archibald Prize. This course is designed to build upon this track record and give students the tools and knowledge to create their own voice in contemporary portraiture.

Numbers are strictly limited so book now.



Above - a studio session in progress at the 2014 Oil Painting Workshop

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

Robin Eley

After 9 years in Los Angeles, Robin Eley has returned to Adelaide on the back of sold out exhibitions in New York and Los Angeles. Acknowledged as one of the world's leading hyperrealist painters, his oil paintings have been seen in the Archibald Prize, the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the National Portrait Gallery. In addition to his artistic achievements, Robin is also a renowned public speaker and instructor. His ability to break down a task as complex as representational oil painting into the most basic and understandable elements, lecture while painting and work seamlessly on the paintings of students have seen his workshops, demonstrations and lectures lauded in Australia, USA and Europe.



Above - Robin at work in his LA studio



ADVANCED PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

Schedule

Day 1

8:30-9:00am: Registration and introductions

9:00-10:00am: Lecture - Painting a successful portrait

10:00-10:15am: Break

10:15-11:15am: Lighting, posing and photographing the model

11:15am-12:00pm: Lecture- Selecting photos

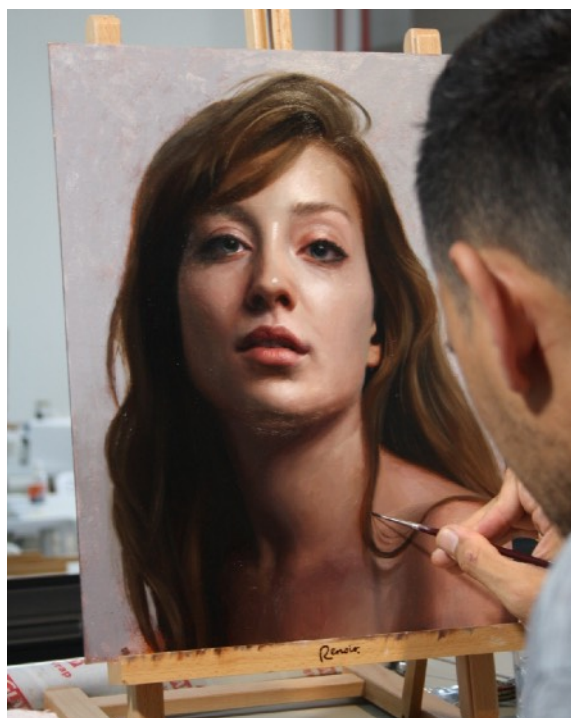
Robin will walk students through his thought process on selecting from the photos just taken

12:00pm-1:00pm: Lunch

1:00-2:30pm: Demonstration- Painting Eyes, Nose and Ears. Robin will demonstrate his approach to painting these features working from the reference selected in the preceding lecture.

2:30-6:00pm: Class exercise- Painting Eyes, Nose and Ears

Students will work on the same exercise under Robin's individual instruction.



Above: Portrait demonstration day from 2019

Day 2

9:00-10:00am: Demonstration- Lips and Hair

Robin will demonstrate his approach to painting these features working from the reference selected.

10:00-10:15am: Break

10:15-12:00pm: Exercise- Nose, Lips and Hair. Students will work on the same exercise under Robin's individual instruction.

12:00pm-1:00pm: Lunch

1:00-6:00pm: Demo and exercise- Portrait Underpainting. Students will select from one of three choices from the reference shoot. They will draw or transfer this choice onto their painting surface and complete a tonal underpainting. Robin will demo the same exercise while students work.

Day 3

9:00am-6pm: Demo and Exercise- Painting the Portrait

Robin will switch fluidly between demonstration and instruction as students work on their individual portraits.

Note: The painted portrait will be a life size painting of the head and upper torso of the subject and require the students to paint and facial features plus hair and clothing.

7pm-10pm: Class dinner and drinks

Day 4

9:00am-6pm: Demo and Exercise- Painting the Portrait

Robin will switch fluidly between demonstration and instruction as students work on their individual portraits.

Day 5

9:00am-6pm: Demo and Exercise- Painting the Portrait

Robin will switch fluidly between demonstration and instruction as students work on their individual portraits.



What you'll need

Below is a list of materials that Robin will be using during the Oil Painting Workshop. It is recommended that students bring either the same or similar supplies to the course in order to effectively follow Robin's technique. Here's how you can get the right stuff.

BRING IT YOURSELF:

If you've painted a little you may find that you have many of the required supplies, so check the list below for what Robin uses and acceptable substitutions.

BUY IT FROM ART TO ART:

The Art Academy has everything listed below ready for pre-purchase from Art to Art. We will be in touch soon with the price and purchase details for these packs.

RENT IT FROM US:

As another option we offer a paint supply rental program for those who don't want to buy or bring their paints. For \$75 you can use all of the paint, medium and solvent you need for the 5 day program (excludes all other supplies).

LIST OF SUPPLIES

PAINTS, MEDIUMS and SOLVENTS

The Art Academy recommends that students use the best quality oil colours they can afford. The following is a list of colours that Robin will use in his demonstrations. In the case of hard to get colours, an alternative has been listed.

- Ultramarine Blue Deep- Rembrandt or Ultramarine Blue from any professional series
- Burnt Umber- Any professional series
- Transparent Oxide Red- Rembrandt or Langridge
- Red Oxide- Langridge
- Cadmium Red- Rembrandt or any professional series
- Alizarin Crimson- Rembrandt or any professional series
- Yellow Ochre- Rembrandt or any professional series
- Titanium White- Rembrandt or any professional series
- Ivory Black - Rembrandt or any professional series

While many alternatives exist, for the purpose of this course, we recommend that students bring a small bottle of medium. Robin's medium of choice is

- Winsor & Newton Original Liquin
- Odourless, artist spirits- we recommend Gamsol or Langridge Artist White Spirit

BRUSHES AND KNIVES

It is recommended that students bring long handle, filbert or flat brushes in a range of sizes and a couple of small synthetic brushes for detail. Students are welcome to bring palette knives for mixing.

The brands Robin will be using are Princeton:

- Princeton Select Round Synthetic : Size 2 and 3
- Princeton Filbert Stiff Synthetic: Various sizes, primarily 2, 4 and 6

SUPPORTS

Student exercises at the Oil Painting Workshop will consist of four exercises and one finished painting. For this we recommend the following.

- 6 painting surfaces approximately A4 in size (21cmx30cm). The quality of these is not important as they are merely for exercises.
- 1 stretched and primed canvas, the proportions of which must be 4Hx3W (this is the canvas you will prepare prior to arrival)

SUPPLIES

The following is a sample list of miscellaneous art supplies that you may need to complete your paintings and keep your work area clean. You are welcome to bring items not listed, however we do ask that you keep in mind the limited space.

- Palette- we recommend the use of a glass palette.
- Scraper blades- used to clean the paint from your glass palette
- Paper Towels and cloth rags
- Large glass jar or painting tin
- Odourless, mineral spirits- we recommend Gamsol
- Pencils and pens for note taking and sketching
- Sketchbook or notepad- for taking notes

Please note: we will provide easels, chairs and tables for each student. Each students will receive a comprehensive **Student Preparation Handbook** one month before the course begins containing more information about how to prepare for the workshop.

TICKETS

Advance Portrait Workshop w/Robin Eley, January 8-12, 2026- \$1650 (inc GST)

Ticket can be purchased online at www.artacademy.com.au or through bank transfer.

To request a bank transfer please contact us at info@artacademy.com.au and we will forward you an invoice with payment information.

Terms and conditions

Full payment is due December 15th, 2025

No refunds will be given for absence or withdrawal on or after December 22nd, 2025. Fees will be refunded for withdrawal prior to December 22nd, 2025.

Students will be permitted to choose their seating position in order of receipt of full payment.

THE ART ACADEMY

About us

The Art Academy was established in 2012 in Adelaide, South Australia to offer world-class art education at a local level. Specialising in boutique, instructional short courses taught by internationally acclaimed artists in a state of the art multimedia facility, the Art Academy offers an unprecedented opportunity to learn from the very best artists in an engaging and interactive environment.

Founded on the belief that the artist must go through the craft to the art, the Art Academy's workshops are an intensive and information packed experience, combining lectures, demonstrations and interactive class exercises. By pairing traditional art education with modern audio visual technology, each student will have a front row seat to proceedings and the ability to work step by step alongside the instructing artist.

The information packed seminars are conducted to present a range of expert opinions centred around a chosen theme. Drawing on our vast industry connections, the Art Academy presents speakers at the vanguard of the contemporary art scene in an engaging format of presentations, Q & A's and panel discussions.

The Art Academy seeks to provide the most qualified and expert answers to all of your art related questions and equip you with the knowledge and skills to pursue your passion.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, email us at info@artacademy.com.au

Follow us on

Facebook - facebook.com/artacademyaustralia

Instagram - [@theartacademy_au](https://theartacademy_au)

FACILITIES

CDW STUDIOS

Level 4 Myer Centre

14-38 Rundle Mall, Adelaide

CDW Studios is a state of the art education facility in the heart of the Adelaide CBD. A full suite of video and audio equipment gives every student a front row seat and allows the Art Academy to deliver its modern approach to traditional art education.

DINING

The Art Academy will provide coffee, tea and small snacks throughout events. Bottled water and cans of soft drink will be available for purchase. Lunch breaks will be one hour and can be taken at any of the surrounding cafes or restaurants.

ACCOMMODATION

For interstate and overseas students, CDW Studios is located close to a wide range of accommodation.

The Playford Hotel, located just 200 metres from CDW Studios is the perfect choice for those looking for comfort and convenience. The Playford are offering attendees of the Art Academy courses a discounted room rate for the duration of their stay. Please contact us for more details.