

Icon Painting Course & Retreat

Description:

The course will provide an introduction to all aspects of traditional icon painting: drawing an image onto a gessoed board and painting with natural and semi-precious pigments with egg tempera and using clay and lose leaf gold leaf for gilding. The focus is to understand the history, symbolism and meaning of icons and to gain the basic skills to be able to draw and paint them. The emphasis will be on copying and tracing an old image correctly and carefully onto the icon board and learning to paint from dark to light in a traditional iconographic way. Participants will be given a step-by-step guide through the various disciplines of this nearly 2000-year-old tradition.

The aim is to paint through six full days from Monday to Saturday and finish the icons during this retreat then have them blessed in the Abbey Church on Sunday.

More Detail:

Hanna Ward is a Finnish born, British educated professional iconographer and illuminated manuscript painter, based in Surrey, UK. Having qualified and worked for many years as an Interior Architect Hanna later realised her true calling was Sacred Art and gained an MA in Traditional Arts and a Diploma in Icon and Wall Painting from the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London where for many years she has now been teaching workshops.

Hanna has also studied iconography over a long period with various masters from Russia, Greece, France, Romania, Finland and the UK. She has been teaching for many years at The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts in London and also in her home studio, and at various overseas workshops mainly in Bethlehem, Palestine, Valamo Monastery in Finland and at Flores del Camino, near Astorga on the Pilgrimage route to Santiago del Compostela in Spain. Hanna now regularly paints icon commissions for churches, private chapels and collectors, and she has taken part in several exhibitions.

Retreat Dynamics:

All our retreats are run along Benedictine principles with a balance between: prayer and work, silence and talking, and being alone and being in community. To do this we use the monastic rhythm of the day defined by the structure of the monastic services, along with the regular meal-times this establishes a balanced and healthy environment from which good reflection and discernment can happen.

What should my expectations be?

The retreat will include:

- A time for monastic services and Mass (once a day);
- A time for silence;
- A time for practising Lectio Divina (sacred reading);
- A time for listening to reflections;
- A time for discussion and asking questions.

In the afternoon there will be:

- A time to have space for myself;
- A time to walk in the Sussex countryside;
- A time to have a 1:1 with a monk (if you wish).

Our hopes for the Retreat:

You will leave feeling:

- That you have connected with God in some meaningful way;
- Rested and refreshed with a sense of joy and hope;
- You will want to return at some stage in the future.