



Mindful Art Training

INFORMATION KIT 2026

10 OCTOBER - 28 NOVEMBER 2026

Michael
Armstrong
Art





An intimate journey

COMBINING ART AND MEDITATION PRACTICE

Mindful Art Training is an intimate learning journey of self-exploration that combines traditional art tuition and timeless meditation practices to unlock your creativity and express your inner voice. Led by a powerful duo - award-winning contemporary multidisciplinary artist and expert art teacher, **Michael Armstrong**, and established holistic yoga and meditation teacher **Tracey Murray**, **Mindful Art Training** is a practical and detailed training set to shift energy and enrich lives. Over six sessions, 30 contact hours and daily dedicated home practice, practitioners will move through hands-on activities, wondrous theoretical and practical learning and self-paced practices – perfect for easing stress and sparking creativity in a fast-paced world.

Mindful Art Training is based in Canberra's Inner North at Mike and Tracey's shared community wellbeing studio in Lyneham. The partners have crafted a unique and beautifully aligned syllabus to guide you through detailed techniques, traditional meditation and mindful practices to meet the aims of this course and beyond.

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The art of observation

MINDFULNESS AT ITS CORE

With an emphasis on observation—both of the internal and external self—*Mindful Art Training* invites you to lean into your creative side when in a calm state, get a feel for it, and understand why it matters. This considered and gentle approach to art practice will fundamentally shift your perspective and provide new thought patterns for healthy habits and subtle connections for a more content, purposeful life.

Picture mindfulness as the key that unlocks your creative door, and art as the playground where your imagination runs wild. Together, they're unstoppable.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Expect to gain foundational knowledge on how to meditate effectively, key art skills, and mindfulness tools for life. Get equipped with art and meditation theory and embrace tools as you become more aware of your energy. You'll learn to draw, sculpt, and paint to reduce stress and boost self-expression. There will be lots of practice and lots of reflection.

Sessions will develop you progressively and be offered at a slow pace to ensure you have the time and space to understand the HOW and WHY about what you're doing.

This course will support you in building a strong creative art practice and an effective personal meditation practice.



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Mike

MEET YOUR TEACHER

Mike Armstrong is a veteran, award-winning artist, martial artist, business owner and author known for his figurative art, photography, and work with veterans and mental health. He's also an experienced facilitator and has taught art classes in various mediums, including painting, drawing, and sculpture. Mike aims to convey a deep inner emotional expression through his work rather than only describing the external form. He creates emotive allegories based on themes of love, loss, pain, shame and hope. His works draw on real-life situations, a wealth of literary sources, and intensely personal, psychological symbolism. Armstrong is an active artist mentor who proactively works with galleries, universities and organisations. Mike is currently undertaking his PhD as Artist in Residence with the University of Canberra (UC).

SEE THE WORLD ANEW

Expand your art skills in this immersive training with renowned artist Michael Armstrong. He will share his insights into creative genres, and his passion for helping students build technical skills and an 'artist's eye' for seeing the world anew. Through personalised instruction, you'll develop a personal practice and visual language to create dynamic, engaging, and creative artworks.



"The artist's skill lies not only in the mastery of technique but in the ability to perceive deeply - to see clearly what others overlook."

— Mike Armstrong

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Tracey

MEET YOUR TEACHER

Tracey Murray is an authentic woman passionate about holistic health, wellbeing and personal relationships. She owns and directs a holistic Yoga and Ayurveda studio-community in Canberra's Inner North, Flow and Food Yoga & Ayurveda. A loving mother and dedicated partner, Tracey was born and bred in Canberra, surrounded by family and friends. A self-confessed foodie, freestyle home cook and dedicated yoga practitioner, Tracey founded Flow and Food Yoga & Ayurveda in 2023 after studying yoga and a series of digestive issues, weight gain, hormone imbalance, disease and discomfort. She is a fully qualified Hatha Yoga Teacher, Ayurveda Health Advisor and Ayurvedic Chef. Tracey found that practising Ayurveda and Yoga together alleviated many of her symptoms and enabled her to live life with more ease.



BRING CALM INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE

Tracey will share with you the basics of how meditation works, why to meditate, how to meditate effectively and how you can incorporate a meditation practice to help reduce stress and enhance your creativity.

Turning your focus inwards, even for just 10 minutes each day, will help you be more adaptable and resilient to life's demands and able to flow with the ups and downs that arise. Meditation has been proven to support many aspects of life, including creativity, leadership, and chronic health conditions.

"Meditation is evolution's strategy to bring out our full potential."

— Tara Brach

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 flow
& food.



Calm boosts creativity

THIS IS AN EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING

Drawing on work by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi on flow, and Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross on neuroaesthetics, the course aims to calm the nervous system, open creative pathways, and potentially upregulate serotonin, supported by neuroscience and psychology research.

- Research suggests mindfulness and art can calm the nervous system and boost creativity.
- These practices may likely increase serotonin and feel-good hormones.
- The evidence leans toward benefits for individuals with trauma, anxiety, and depression.

Mindfulness can rewire your brain for the better. It boosts the hippocampus (think of it as your brain's learning hub) and tames the amygdala (the stress alarm that's always on high alert). Even better, it can increase serotonin, that "feel-good" hormone that keeps you steady when life gets overwhelming.

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Overview

APPROACH

Mindful Art Training integrates potent mindful practices with detailed art instruction to enhance mental well-being and invoke creativity. Each session includes a welcome circle and meditation practice - led by Tracey, followed by formal art tuition and practices, led by Mike and supported by Tracey.

When was the last time you doodled on a napkin or hummed a tune without thinking? That's your creativity begging to break free. Art isn't just for "artists" — it's for anyone who wants to unwind and feel alive.

STRUCTURE

With an emphasis on observation - both internal and external self - **Mindful Art Training** starts with sketchbook exercises and observational drawing, progresses to life drawing and face drawing, then explores sculpting and colour mixing. Alongside the development of skills, students will be supported through the creation of a personal project and practice. Between sessions, participants will practice daily meditation and drawing to build a sustainable mindful art practice.





Benefits

- Ease stress with mindfulness and creative outlets
- Unlock your creativity and express your unique voice
- Gain formal art training in portraiture, drawing life, still-life drawing, sculpting and painting
- Gain a framework for effective meditation to form and strengthen neural pathways
- Learn technical and practical art skills
- Allow flow states to emerge and be experienced
- Explore creativity when in a calm state, instead of being forced or deadline-based
- Connect with others in a supportive, inclusive space
- Gain more confidence in creating works
- Create your own personal art and meditation practice

INCLUSIONS

- 32+ face-to-face contact hours of in-person training and tuition with **two** highly skilled, compassionate, kind and dedicated teachers.
- A bound and printed 100-page written reference manual.
- Guided meditation resource recordings to support home practice.
- A kit of professional art resources, including a sketchbook, drawing tools, oil-based clay, art boards, glass palette, art canvas, oil paints, a paint knife and brushes.
- A supportive community to connect and engage with.

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Testimonials

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"This training really taught me to let go and just let things be. It helped me enjoy being creative again and reminded me to make time for myself, my health and my body. It gave me the space to try something different and to look after myself in ways I hadn't before" - M

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Attempting art can be daunting for the unpracticed. Slowing a busy life - to even trying creating art - can turn the daunting into something to leave to others or buy at a gallery. The Mindful Art course by Tracey and Mike made it possible for me to try art, be more in the moment, and has changed the way I see other people, the world and myself for the better and likely forever. Thanks for your patience in teaching and for your willingness to make mindfulness and art go together" T

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"Tracey and Mike are exceptional teachers - supportive, encouraging, compassionate, and attuned to where each of us was in our meditation and artistic journeys. Their generosity with both time and knowledge created an environment in which learning felt expansive" - G

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"Mindful Art Training changed how I see the world, art and meditation. Mike and Tracey are gentle and knowledgeable teachers who taught us practical skills and encouraged us, no matter where we were in our journey. I now have an expanded curiosity and appreciation for art and meditation, and for how these new skills can be blended to enhance and enrich life. The community created was amazing, and I enjoyed getting to know everyone over the weeks. If this training sparks your interest, go for it. I'm so glad I said yes!" - F

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The plan

Lesson 1: Foundational observation

Saturday 10 October 1pm to 5pm (4-hour session)

- Understand what meditation is, what effective meditation preparation looks and feels like, how to overcome common barriers and start cultivating concentration.
- Observational drawing: sketch everyday objects (a shell, a flower, a glass) to see the world with fresh eyes. Using a variety of drawing mediums, create sketches and sustained drawings, investigating a range of subjects.

Lesson 2: Structure and objectivity

Saturday 17 October 12pm to 6pm (6-hour immersion)

- Learn how to effortlessly focus on a meditation object and create presence with your meditation object. Learn the art of beginning again.
- Two life drawing sessions: capture the human form without time pressure. Learn how to see and craft proportions with mindful and precise application.
- Work directly from the nude figure to understand the balance between observed figuration and abstract formal qualities. All fundamental drawing elements are considered, including compositional issues of the human form, space and structure.
- Experience the art of rest through restorative yoga to integrate and process thoughts and feelings, to renew energy and create ease.

Session 3: Preparation for self reflection

Saturday 31 October 1pm - 5pm (4-hour session)

- Understand how to prepare the nervous system and the mind with your breath and explore the concept of showing up 'doing' without attachment.
- Explore facial drawing techniques and create a self-portrait. Draw your own face or a friend's, using a mirror and techniques to make the process accessible. Explore and learn to draw the forms and structures of the human head, facial features. Discover the connection between the 'character' and the 'face'.

Between sessions, you'll get bite-sized tasks — like a 15-minute meditation after lunch or a sketch before bed. It's designed for real life, not a fantasy schedule.



Session 4: Bring ideas to life

Saturday 7 November 1pm - 6pm (5-hour session)

- Explore and discuss meditation pathways and meditation techniques.
- Sculpt from life as you shape oil-based clay into 3D forms, feeling stress melt away.
- Delve deeply into the making process, exploring new ways of manipulating and pushing the clay to create challenging and mindful sculptures.

Session 5: Create colour and clarity

Saturday 21 November 1pm - 6pm (5-hour session)

- Create clarity around meditation practice, including choices, repetition, and routine.
- Play with paints and colour theory, honing your observational skills.
- Using oil paint, learn how to mix paint and experiment with colour, composition.
- Learn to paint with a mindful approach while increasing your knowledge and understanding of the importance of colour, composition and form.

Session 6: Craft your personal practice with purpose

Saturday 28 November 12pm - 6pm (6-hour immersion)

- Create a personal meditation plan with intention and put it into practice.
- Create something uniquely yours, with Tracey and Michael cheering you on.
- Celebrate your achievement in the community with your teachers and peers over a complimentary vegetarian-based dinner prepared by Tracey.

Create a positive shift

CONFIRM YOUR PLACE IN THIS TRAINING

If you're ready to trade burnout for balance and reconnect with your creativity, Mindful Art Training is calling your name. Join Tracey Murray and Michael Armstrong for a journey that's as practical as it is inspiring. Sign up today and take the first step toward a calmer, more creative you.

YOUR INVESTMENT

\$1699 all inclusive

Early Bird Price: \$1499 all inclusive

**Book before 1 June 2026
and use the code MAT26EARLYBIRD**

Payment plans available.

SECURE YOUR PLACE

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW

Places are limited.



QUESTIONS?

Call Tracey 0437 144 352 or email studio@flowandfood.com.au



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