

2026 SUMMER INTER / ADVANCED PROGRAM

Advance your skills with us!

The Intermediate/Advanced Program - From Skill to Mastery consists of six sessions led by six Master Instructors, each concentrating on a core foundational concept viewed through a professional lens. Together, these sessions provide a high-level framework for assessing your current skill set, identifying gaps, and recognizing opportunities for growth within your personal practice.

6-Week Online Program Saturday Mornings

June 13th - July 18th | 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

Location: Online via Zoom (All sessions are recorded!)

Levels: Suitable for Foundations Program Graduates & experienced painters with a strong foundation

Cost: \$370 for Members | \$420 for Non-Members

For More Information:

<https://federationacademy.ca/inter-advanced-program>

Or Call The Office At: 604-681-2744



HOW TO REGISTER

Visit federationacademy.ca
Or phone 604-681-2744

SESSION 1: ADVANCED COMPOSITION & VISUAL STORYTELLING

by Lalita Hamill, AFCA

Online class:

Date: Saturday, June 13th 2026, 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

Location: Online via Zoom

Description:

In this session, artists will push beyond basic balance and harmony to create compositions that are dynamic, intentional, and richly layered. We'll explore complex spatial organization, visual hierarchy, and strategies for strong focal control. Through studying movement, rhythm, tension, and even purposeful ambiguity, participants will learn how to guide the viewer's eye and emotional response. The session also introduces the use of symbolism and narrative sequencing within a single image, helping artists infuse deeper meaning and story into their work.

Objective(s):

- Moving beyond balance and harmony into dynamic, intentional compositions.
- Complex spatial organization
- Visual hierarchy & focal control
- Movement, rhythm, tension, and ambiguity
- Symbolism and narrative sequencing within a single image



Instructor's Biography

Lalita Hamill is a professional fine artist living in Langley, BC, Canada. She discovered her artistic abilities as a young adult during the final year of her Philosophy degree at the University of Victoria. Subsequent years of drawing led to four years of study at the Vancouver Academy of Art, where she received instruction by classically trained painters. With over thirty years teaching experience, Lalita is a well respected teacher, mentor, and art assessor. On account of the success of her contemporary atelier program, Lalita was asked to design the Foundations Program for the Federation of Canadian Artists.

SESSION 2: LIGHT, ATMOSPHERE & ADVANCED COLOUR STRATEGY

by Gaye Adams, SFCA

Online class:

Date: Saturday, June 20th 2026, 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

Location: Online via Zoom

Description:

This session dives into how light and atmosphere can be amplified through thoughtful colour choices. Artists will explore the role of sophisticated neutrals in creating depth and aerial perspective, and learn how temperature shifts can bring sunlight, shadow, and space to life. By understanding how temperature contrast strengthens the feeling of natural light, participants will discover new ways to guide the viewer's eye and balance intensity. Through integrating temperature and neutrality, this topic equips artists to create cohesive, luminous landscape paintings with a refined atmospheric presence.

Objective(s):

- understand the power of sophisticated neutrals in creating depth and atmosphere in your paintings (aerial perspective)
- how working with color temperature creates the illusion of sunlight and depth in shadows to create convincing light in the landscape



Instructor's Biography

Gaye Adams has been painting professionally and instructing painting for over 30 years. She is passionate about painting the effects of light in a representational fashion, and the challenge of creating the illusion of light and its many presentations in the landscape and elsewhere keeps her returning to the easel. She is a believer in putting first things first when it comes to teaching students to develop their painting skills, starting with a strong foundation of basics in all aspects of art making. Gaye is an award winning painter and shows her work locally, nationally and internationally. She teaches in Canada, the United States and abroad.

SESSION 3: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT & ARTISTIC VOICE

by Leanne Christie, SFCA

Online class:

Date: Saturday, June 27th 2026, 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

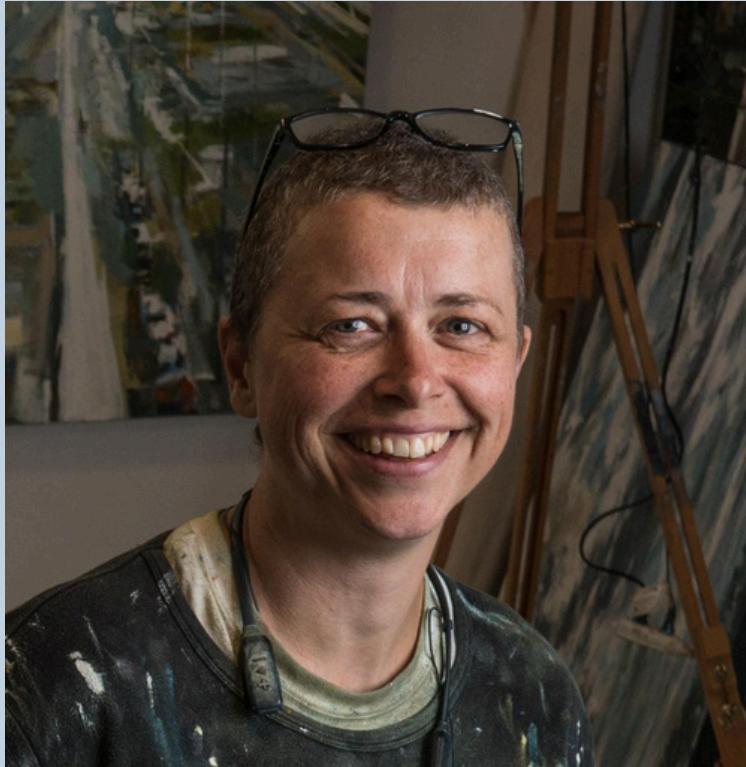
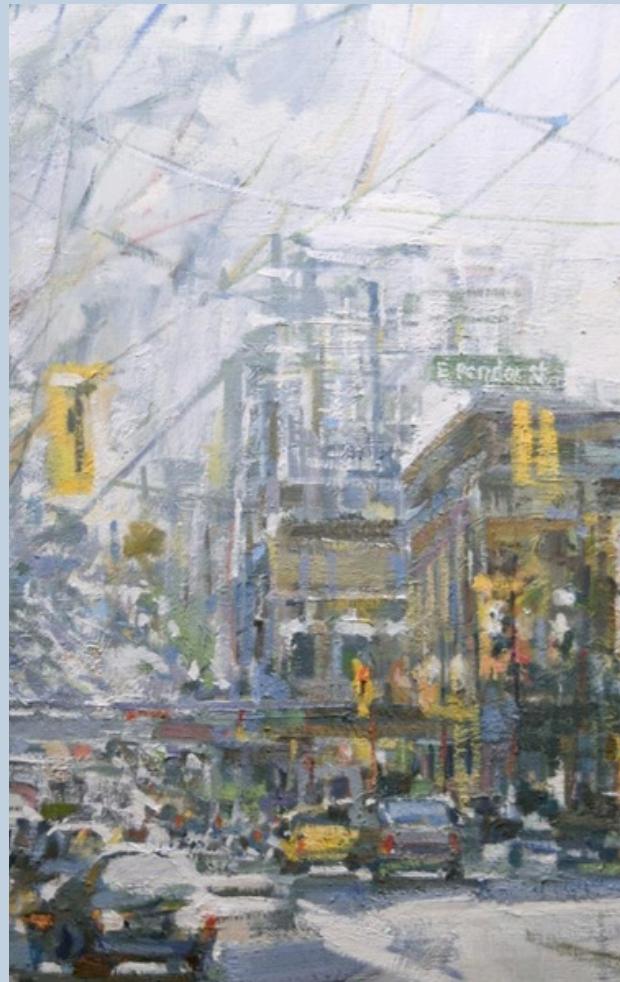
Location: Online via Zoom

Description:

This session focuses on uncovering the deeper motivations behind your art—why you create, not just how. Participants will learn to develop ideas through research-driven exploration, personal symbolism, and recurring themes that give their work meaning and coherence. We'll examine how lived experiences can be translated into a compelling visual language, and how to refine and edit concepts across a body of work. This topic supports artists in cultivating a distinct, authentic voice that resonates through every piece they create.

Objective(s):

- Clarifying why you make work, not just how.
- Research-driven artmaking
- Personal symbolism and recurring themes
- Translating lived experience into visual language
- Editing and refining ideas across a body of work



Instructor's Biography

Urban Oil painter Leanne M Christie has a reputation for complex paintings that are built with powerful brushwork and the sophisticated manipulation of her medium. Christie's concept of complexity through the inclusion of active and passive time as a catalytic element in the paintings; finds the perfect partner in her urban subjects, which are naturally founded on the complex relationships of the urban citizen and urban politics. Born and raised in South Africa, Christie moved to the Canadian West Coast in the late 2000's after a period of 10 years abroad that had originated as a 2 week holiday after the completion of her Bachelor of Fine Art from Rhodes University, Makhanda in the Eastern Cape.

SESSION 4: SURFACE, MATERIALITY & EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES

by Kit Bell, AFCA

Online class:

Date: Saturday, July 4th 2026, 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

Location: Online via Zoom

Description:

This session invites artists to expand their creative vocabulary by exploring the expressive potential of materials and surfaces. We'll look at how material choices can carry meaning, how mixed media can deepen a work's impact, and how nontraditional tools open up new pathways for mark-making. Participants will experiment with texture as a narrative device and learn to embrace accident, chance, and restraint as part of a dynamic creative process.

Objective(s):

- Exploring how materials carry meaning.
- Mixed media integration
- Nontraditional tools and mark-making
- Texture as narrative
- Working with accident, chance, and restraint



Instructor's Biography

Kit Bell, a native of Vancouver, BC, has always had a passion for art, even as her initial career led her into the world of computers following her graduating from the UBC with a Bachelor of Science in 1974. In 1989, Kit seized the chance to shift gears, studying at the Ottawa School of Art and exhibiting her work in galleries and shows in Ottawa. Kit returned to painting in 2007 and hasn't looked back. A versatile artist, she continuously refines her technique and artistic vision while delving into various media. A prominent figure in the artistic community, Kit serves as a frequent instructor for the FCA providing critiques, mentorship, and workshops. When external factors such as the pandemic necessitated a shift to online teaching, Kit adeptly leveraged her computer skills to reach a broader and more diverse audience.

SESSION 5: CRITIQUE, ITERATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIO PRACTICE

by Ciel Ellis, SFCA

Online class:

Date: Saturday, July 11th 2026, 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

Location: Online via Zoom

Description:

This session helps artists develop the ability to view their work with clarity, discipline, and strategic intent.

Participants will learn advanced self-critique frameworks, how to integrate peer feedback effectively, and how to refine a series through iterative development. We'll also cover professional studio habits—from workflow and time management to sustainable creative routines—supporting artists in building a focused, productive, and long-term studio practice.

Objective(s):

- Learning to see your work objectively and strategically.
- Advanced self-critique frameworks
- Peer critique and feedback integration
- Iterative development of series
- Time management, workflow, and studio habits



Instructor's Biography

Ciel's career was launched into a whole new trajectory when she realized that her paintings changed the way the audience thought about themselves. With well composed and masterfully rendered oil paintings, her pieces awaken the undeniable reality, in the viewer, that they are incredible.

Her work has been featured in 38 juried exhibitions and is collected around North American and New Zealand. Recently featured in Art Avenue and International Artists magazine, her work has been called an exceptional, modern/traditional take on our centuries old love of flowers.

SESSION 6: PORTFOLIO, EXHIBITION & CONTEXTUAL PRACTICE

by Dominique Walker, SFCA

Online class:

Date: Saturday, July 18th 2026, 10:00am - 12:30pm (PDT)

Location: Online via Zoom

Description:

This session guides artists through the process of preparing their work for the world with confidence and clarity. We'll explore how to develop a cohesive portfolio, craft compelling artist statements and project descriptions, and make thoughtful decisions around installation, presentation, and scale. Participants will also examine how audience, context, and curatorial framing shape the way artwork is experienced. This topic equips artists to communicate their practice effectively and present their work in a way that elevates its impact.

Objective(s):

- Preparing work for the world.
- Cohesive portfolio development
- Artist statements and project descriptions
- Installation, presentation, and scale considerations
- Understanding audience, context, and curatorial framing



Instructor's Biography

Dominique currently teaches in the IDEA School of Design at Capilano University. She received her art education both through the Capilano program she now teaches at as well as through her family upbringing; She is the fourth generation of a family of female landscape painters known as the Everard Group, who's work can be found in private collections worldwide and the national galleries of South Africa. Dominique has been painting professionally since 2015. She has her SFCA designation with the Federation of Canadian artists.