

Brush Up on Your Painting Skills and Learn New Techniques at NOVA Open

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Every year NOVA Open brings together tabletop wargamers and miniature hobbyists from all over the world to share in competition, comradery, and fun! When all of these miniature loving people get together, they share tips and tricks that spread and grow throughout the community. NOVA Open brings that to the next level by offering novice and veteran painters alike the chance to learn from world class miniature artists who teach classes on everything from painting competition level freehand work, to speed painting whole armies, to designing and building terrain, and even adding led lights to make your miniatures really shine!

Be sure to check out some of the world-class artists and teachers who will be coming to the NOVA Open 2018 as part of our popular seminar program!

NOVA Open is excited to announce that [**Alfonso 'Banshee' Giralde**](#) will be teaching at NOVA Open 2018. Banshee is an international award-winning painter and has been teaching around the world since 2005. His students are now some of the most renowned painters in the miniature industry. One of Banshee's main goals is to teach students that techniques are only a method and a tool to create and show our ideas. That's why he encourages all the new painters to run away from recipes and try to understand things without being constrained by searching for the perfect blend.

Banshee will be teaching a series of Hobby and Display seminars, mostly hands-on, at NOVA Open. These seminars include:

- Banshee Paint a Bust;
- Designing Colors for Space Marine Armies;
- Paint a Bust from 0 to 100%;
- Freehands; and,
- Ambiance Class 75mm.



Returning for 2018, [**Matt DiPietro of Contrast Miniatures**](#) is expanding his repertoire to bring a wider breadth of classes to display and hobby painters. Matt believes that miniatures are more than just an accessory to gaming; miniatures can be art, and he wants to share his vision with the gaming community, miniature community, and art lovers who have not yet been exposed to miniature artwork. Through his classes he wants to educate and inform students on the broad range of possibilities in miniatures.

Matt DiPietro will be teaching a series of hobby and display seminars at NOVA Open to include:

- Hands-on Sketch Style;
- Understanding Textures;
- Blending Bootcamp;
- Building a Display Base; and,
- Monster Flesh: Painting Non-human skin.



Another exciting new instructor at NOVA Open 2018 is **Shoshanna 'Shoshie' Bauer of [Shoshie's Magnificent Mini Painting](#)**. Shoshie Bauer is an internationally known award-winning painter and teacher. Shoshie received her BA in Studio-art and painted professional watercolors prior to switching to miniatures full time. In 2013 she received her Reaper Bones 1 Kickstarter rewards which jumpstarted her obsession with miniature painting into a full-time career!

She was further encouraged when she won awards at Privateer Press's P3 Grandmaster Painting competition and Best-in-Show at Con on the Cob in 2014. Since then, Shoshie has cultivated a wide social media presence and begun teaching what she has learned.

Shoshie will be teaching a series of hands-on hobby and display seminars at NOVA Open to include:

- A Very Basic Basics Class;
- Realistic Skintone; and,
- Intro to Scenic Basing.



Want to improve the appearance of your gaming table? [Death Ray Designs](#) will be teaching and vending at NOVA Open 2018.



Death Ray Designs started by creating YouTube painting tutorials and shortly after launch began collaborating with [MiniWarGaming](#) to provide extra content for them; then they purchased their first laser cutter and began producing terrain and accessory kits for our favorite war games. They hold their products to the highest standard and personally produce every part of the kits that they can in the USA. While they are a very small company, they put their passion into every product they produce. In 2016, Death Ray Designs ran the very successful [Black Site X and Rapid Vanguard Kickstarter](#).

The Death Ray Designs team will be teaching hands-on terrain classes on:

- Prep and Assembly of MDF Terrain;
- Painting MDF Terrain (Factory New);
- Painting MDF Terrain (Rust and Ruin); and,
- Modifying MDF Terrain (Destruction and Rubble).

Students will walk away from each class with a piece of terrain that they worked on.

Want to learn about airbrushing or want to get past just using your airbrush to prime? [White Metal Games](#) is at NOVA Open 2018 to help! White Metal Games is a miniature painting commission service based out of Knightdale, NC.

Star Wars: X-Wing and Star Wars: Armada players and painters, make sure you check out returning artist **Madeline Cockrell of LightCraft Miniature Studios** and her new class.

LightCraft has rapidly gained renown and a strong following for repainting and modifying ships from X-Wing the Miniatures Game. After falling in love with X-Wing TMG, she began to experiment with repainting Star Wars miniatures.

In translating her experience with acrylic and oil painting to miniature painting, she developed multiple unique methods for creating striking and realistic models. She has achieved notoriety in the X-Wing community for her WWII style nose-art, impeccable attention to detail and creative paint schemes. She is excited to share her most asked-about techniques with fellow X-Wing painters!

LightCraft Miniature Studios is teaching:

- Intro to painting Fantasy Flight Games X-Wing Miniatures;
- Highlighting and Shading Inorganic Miniatures; and,
- Intro to Freehand.

Also returning for 2018 is **Stiff Neck Studios** led by Wes Cogdal. Stiff Neck Studios is a high-quality miniature painting service where every day the studio artists breathe life into their clients' vision. The SNS team has had artwork featured in Games Workshop's White Dwarf magazines, Forge World's web gallery as well as web casts on Beasts of War.

The artists at SNS are hand selected for their creativity, discipline, and technical ability. They have won awards from Golden Demon to the Crystal Brush. Many armies painted by the studio have taken best appearance award all over the world and the team wants to pass on some of this knowledge and experience to attendees!

Stiff Neck Studios is again teaching speed painting to above tabletop where students will learn this technique to provide high standard paint jobs for their miniatures. These classes sold out in 2017 so sign up soon!



Teaching the classes will be Preston 'Values' Bernard, an avid wargamer and hobbyist. He is a winner of multiple painting awards and has been featured on Games Workshop's Facebook page and the Forge World website. Preston enjoys developing new techniques and working together with the exceptionally talented team of artists at WMG to create miniatures that stand out both on the table and on the display shelf.

Joining Preston in teaching will be Andy 'The Painter' Lignoies, a seasoned painter and self-admitted plastic crack addict. He enjoys painting, kit bashing, and almost every detail of modeling miniatures (except for cleaning sprues).

The White Metal Games team will be teaching classes on:

- Intro to airbrushing; and,
- A four-hour hands-on airbrushing class. Class size is limited so sign up soon!



Joining the NOVA Open seminar team for 2018 is [Vince Venturella](#), NOVA Open 2017 Capital Palette Miniature Art Competition Fan Favorite winner. Vince is a passionate hobbyist and instructor, with over 20 years of passion for painting. Vince hosts Warhammer Weekly every week on YouTube and is best known for his Hobby Cheating video series. Vince's main hope is to help everyone take their next step on their own personal hobby journey!

Vince will be teaching a series of hands-on class to include:

- Battle Damage;
- Freehand;
- Working with True Metallic metals; and,
- Speed Painting with Inks, Washes and Glazes.

Want to learn how to light your models, terrain or display board? [PoweredPlay Gaming](#) is returning to NOVA Open 2018 to teach you how to do just that! PoweredPlay Gaming aims to electrify play, spark personal creativity, and empower individuality in gamers, hobbyists, and collectors alike.

From lights, to smoke, to sound and more, they are driven to give students the tools and component needed customize their armies, vehicles, historical models and whatever they have in mind to create.

PoweredPlay Gaming is teaching:

- Introduction to lighting;
- Advanced lighting techniques; and,
- The basics of DC circuitry theory.



Continue to check out the NOVA Open newsletter and [NOVA Open Tabletop Wargaming Convention](#) Facebook page for more information.