



# SACRED SPACES

**Art Retreat and Workshop in Tuscany, Italy**

**28 Sept - 3 Oct 2026**

Arrive and Depart Pisa or Florence  
Strictly limited to 8 participants

## Description

Between the earth and the sky, built spaces in which we dwell serve a function, but also can take on significance related to our very essence as human beings. During our week together in Tuscany we will explore the shadowy mysteries of centuries—even millennia—of architecture. We'll spend time responding on site in the monumental sacred spaces of Tuscany with dry and wet media.

Using watercolors and water-soluble graphite drawing, we will pursue the weight, textures and weathered permanence of stone and seek to capture the rhythms of light and shadow of passageways and the fleeting passage of time. We'll draw inspiration from our daily excursions to Medieval hilltowns, country churches and chapels that are off the tourist path.

## Highlights:

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|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| private historic villa | farm-to-table meals   | expert guides and instructor |
| guided art workshop    | delicious local wines | all ground transportation    |
| winery visit & tasting | pizza cooking class   | art supplies provided        |

## Guest Artist Bio

During the years spent teaching in Italy for an American study abroad program, Michelle Arnold Paine steeped herself in the Renaissance masters, the rhythms of the Catholic liturgy, and the intimacy and beauty of daily Italian life. Michelle received a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and went on to earn an MFA from University of New Hampshire.

Michelle's work as an artist centers around expressing the timeless spaces of architecture, and the narratives recounted within them. She has exhibited across the US and her paintings have appeared in many publications which seek to explore elements of the divine. Her paintings are part of the collections at Valparaiso University, River College, and Gordon College. For nearly twenty years she has worked one-on-one with clients to create paintings of the buildings that anchor the significant moments in life. Michelle brings her passion for combining precise rendering and spiritual insight into the lives of others.

Michelle lives in northwest Ohio with her husband and two daughters and is co-founder of NCVA (Network of Christians in Visual Arts).



<b>Rates:</b>	<b>Limited to 8 participants</b>
double with shared bath	\$ 2,950
double with ensuite bath	\$ 3,300
single with shared bath	\$ 3,650
single with ensuite bath	\$ 3,950