WSU & ISA: 10

Wichita State University &
The International School of Painting, Drawing & Sculpture
in Umbria, Italy (ISA)

Paintings & Drawings created during & related to ISA Artist Residency

Jodi Lightner
2009 ~ Supported by a Koch Cultural Trust Enabling Grant

Chiyoko Myose
2009 ~ Supported by a Koch Cultural Trust Enabling Grant

Jacob Seymore
2008 ~ Supported by a Koch Cultural Trust Enabling Grant

Clayton Staples Gallery ~ McKnight Art Center ~ WSU

November 16-December 17, 2009

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Special Appointment: Call 316-978-7707.

Reception: Wednesday, December 9, 2009
4:30-6:30 p.m.
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This tenth WSU & ISA exhibition illustrates an ongoing studio practice and career advancement opportunity for students, alumni and friends of the WSU painting program. Jodi Lightner and Jacob Seymore created all of the exhibited artwork in Italy. Chiyoko Myose created all of paintings in Italy, and the drawings in Wichita using information gained from the experience.

During the summer of 1989, I visited a number of art schools in the central Italian provinces of Umbria and Tuscany with the objective of finding one that would provide a valuable experience for WSU painting students, alumni and friends wanting to travel and study in Italy. At that time, ISA (then called the International School of Art) was in the second year of operation and was renting facilities in Todi. During the visit to ISA, it became clear that it was the school I had hoped to find. ISA has a very intensive and selective program with excellent faculty, visiting artists and scholars. The school takes good care of the students, making the ISA experience a perfect one, even for first-time travelers to Europe. The program has a strong emphasis on figure and landscape painting and drawing from direct observation, making it compatible with that aspect of our own academic approach. However, there is no bias against other modes of artwork or studio methodology. Artists working indirectly or abstractly are also encouraged to apply, and they receive the same excellent educational experience. ISA now has a permanent location in the small hill town of Montecastello di Vibio, just north of Todi. Students, resident artists and faculty are housed in the primary school facility or apartments in the town. Local cooks make rustic Umbrian meals, and everyone dines together. The evening meal takes place on the dining terrace, overlooking the Tiber River valley. Private and semi-private studios with 24-hour access are located in several great stone buildings. Visiting artists and lecturers plus trips to Rome, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Bologna, Sansepolcro and Perugia to visit museums and galleries add to the total experience. Located midway between Rome and Florence, the province of Umbria is beautiful, so the natural and built environment is in itself an inspiration. ~ WSU painting and Wichita now has twenty eight alumni of ISA; Jodi Lightner, Chiyoko Myose, Jacob Seymore, Martha Wherry, Karrie Maxwell, Joanna Mix, E.Vincent Wood III, Matthew Hilyard, Carole Branda, Judy Dove, Rosemary Dugan, Ann Gethen, Jennifer Lawhead, Jennifer Locke, Carole Ranney, Jonathan Stevens, Maureen Walter, Rebecca Franz, Kyle Bowen, Maureen Tunnell, Christopher Bertholf, JoAnn Ray, Judy Higdon, Ann Martin, Shirley Glickman, Barbara Mallonee, Mary Morgan and Mika Holtzinger. All of the artists had a rewarding experience at ISA in advancing their studio practice and art careers. ~ ISA has an excellent website with complete information on all programs. http://www.giotto.org The WSU painting program website also has a section devoted to ISA, including statements by all WSU ISA alumni on their experience in Italy. http://www.wichita.edu/painting

Ronald Christ, Professor of Painting, WSU