

# The Fine Art Figure Workshop and Retreat

September 7-10, 2020 | Needle Rock Lodge, Crawford, CO

Curriculum and Registration Information

[www.jenniferthoreson.com](http://www.jenniferthoreson.com)



## INSTRUCTION

This workshop will give students an in-depth, immersive learning experience focusing on photographing the female figure. Students will learn to break down the process of photographing the human body by re-learning how to truly see the figure, and how to compose images that are laced with both beauty and layers of conceptual meaning.

### Day One | Session One: Artist Talk

In our first session, I'll share an open and honest discussion of my artistic practice and thought process, and the evolution of my work. We will discuss figurative work in fine detail, including how to work collaboratively with models, create

interesting shape and form, have command of your sessions, work fearlessly and confidently, improve your verbal communication and instruction, and most importantly, create work with depth and substance. I love questions, and fully encourage an interactive discussion.

### Day One | Session Two: The Figure in the Studio

We begin in a unique, airy outdoor studio, where we study shape and form, creating interesting lines, and using gesture and expression. Here, we begin with simple shapes and move into the more complex, introducing interesting props, and beginning to push the limits of the body to create visual impact. The 'studio in the woods' is a rich space where we can play with light, and learn to control it in a variety of ways using simple scrims and subtractive light. We will create beautiful garments and head-pieces, and students will be involved in the crucial process of styling the models. I'll break down poses step by step, then show an uninterrupted series of escalating poses that create a crescendo-like collaboration between myself and the model.

### Day One | Session Three: The figure in the Landscape

In this session, we will study the figure in landscape, learning to pair the body with surrounding shapes and textures to create stunning outdoor photographs. We will introduce the use of large-scale props, and move into more challenging poses, really pushing the limits of figurative practice. I will introduce working with multiple figures together, building upon previously learned concepts of structure, shape, balance, and gesture. We'll learn to effectively use available light, and will work into dusk, the most beautiful part of the day.

### Day Two | Session One: The Symbolic Figure

Our last demonstration session will weave together the techniques we learned previous sessions, and layer the use of symbolic materials, props, and garments, to create visually stunning images that are heavy with conceptual meaning. These images begin to push and ask questions of the viewer, and carry the 'DNA' of the artist. You'll learn how to translate your ideas, and your own personal story into symbols that can be visually represented. To me, this is the most important part of creating expressive signature work.

### Day Two | Sessions Three and Four: Student Practice

Students will work one-on-one with models, working to utilize new ideas and techniques gathered in the demonstration sessions. I will be available to work with students as they photograph, helping to fine-tune poses and use of light, and to help flesh out conceptual ideas. Studio sets and light modifiers, locations, props, and garments will be available for use, and students are welcome to bring items of their own. The lodge is set on several hundred acres, and has utterly spectacular scenery and fantastic opportunity for a wide variety of wonderful imagery. Students will have the chance to work with several models to gain experience with different skill sets and body types, and how to communicate effectively with a variety of subjects.

### Day Two | Session Five

I will demonstrate my simple digital finishing techniques in Adobe Photoshop, and discuss printing, matting, and framing work for exhibition. We will also discuss methods for selling and editioning fine art work, and how best to prepare for portfolio reviews. Lastly, we will discuss strategies for approaching galleries, museums, and publishers.



### Day Three | Session One

On our last morning together, we will have a group critique of images created at the workshop. This is one of my favorite parts of the whole experience, and I've found everyone really engages and learns a lot from it.

During the workshop, we will have a wonderful professional hair and makeup artist, and six models who will lodge with us. This creates a beautiful harmony and collaborative spirit between the stylist, photographers and the models. Each year, we all form lasting, meaningful friendships. The workshop is always a mountain-top experience that really touches people, and we all return home feeling refreshed and newly inspired. Each year, we have participants who have returned time after time, which is a testament to the meaningfulness of the experience.

### LOCATION

This year's workshop will be held at the breathtaking Lodge at Needle Rock in Crawford, Colorado, between Aspen and Telluride. The resort is nestled between Aspen and Telluride, and borders the West Elk wilderness and the Gunnison National Forest. We will have hundreds of acres and a grand lodge all to ourselves, and will be free to roam and create to our heart's desire. The resort includes farm-to-table cuisine, utilizing fresh foods from their own green house and nearby farms. For animal lovers, the resort has a small animal farm, including horses, chickens, goats, and pigs. In the evenings, we will enjoy wonderful chef-prepared three course meals and wine pairings, while drinking in a



spectacular mountain view. After dinner, students can get to know each other over cocktails from the open bar. The resort has a sauna, game room, a fire pit, and a 7,000 square foot viewing deck. For photography, the property has incredible mountain views, rock faces, a river, several streams, and a pond, open fields, and a perfect view of needle rock. For more information about the lodge,

have a look at some beautiful images, and read a bit about the ranch on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLodgeatNeedleRock/>

## TUITION AND RESERVATIONS

Reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited to 16 students, and usually fills very quickly. To secure your space, email [jenniferbthoreson@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferbthoreson@gmail.com), and I will send you the link to the online reservation form.

Workshop tuition is \$1950 and includes instruction, lodging, wonderful meals and open bar, and ranch activities. Tuition must be paid at the time of registration. Tuition is non-refundable, however if you are unable to fulfill your reservation and we can fill it with someone from our waiting list, we are happy to reimburse you.

## TRAVEL

To reach the resort, guests may fly into local airports Grand Junction or Montrose. From either airport, a staff member will pick you up and bring you to the lodge.

You may also fly into Denver International Airport, which is approximately a 4 hour drive from the resort. Each year, we assist students in finding carpooling buddies who can share the cost of a rental car. We will help you find others who are arriving at a similar time, and coordinate meeting places so you can travel together. We have often found that the best friendships are formed during the drive to the workshop!

The workshop begins on the evening of Monday, September 7 with dinner and orientation at 6pm. Guests are welcome to arrive as early as 3 pm for check in to the lodge. We will end with breakfast and critique on Thursday, September 10 at 11am. Each year, several students choose to stay an extra night at the ranch, or board overnight at the airport so there is no need to rush on the final day of the workshop.

If you have any questions about the workshop or need guidance in booking travel arrangements, please feel free to email me at [jenniferbthoreson@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferbthoreson@gmail.com). I'm very happy to be of assistance.