

The Fine Art Figure Workshop and Retreat

September 20-23, 2021 | Casa Del Gavilan, Cimmaron, NM

Curriculum and Registration Information

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 start with simple shapes and move into the more complex, introducing interesting props, 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 offerings--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. This session is part demonstration, and part student practice.

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 evocative 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 you individually as you 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 you are welcome to bring items of your own.

The casa 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 in communicating effectively with a variety of subjects. During sessions Three and Four, students have the option to schedule an hour-long 1:1 session, where I can work with each person individually. This time may include private lessons while working with a model, portfolio review, help with selecting and finishing images, or a conversation about marketing, placing, and publishing your fine art work.

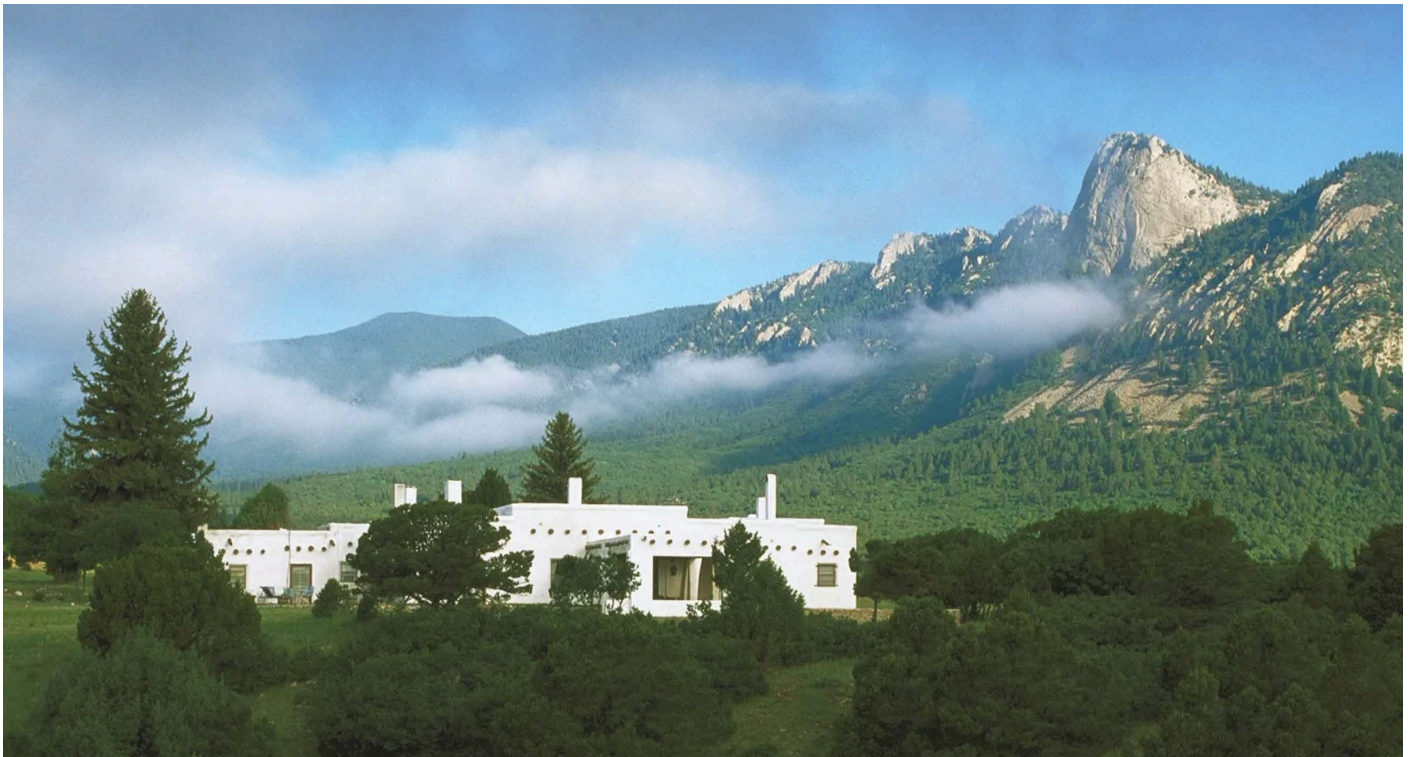


Day Three | Session One

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.

Location Information

Nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Cimarron, New Mexico is the historic inn Casa del Gavilan. A place of spirit--where hawk and eagle soar--this grand adobe villa was built 1910-1912 for Jack and Gertrude Nairn, formerly of Hartford, Connecticut. When completed, artists and writers from far and wide came to enjoy the Nairns' elegant hospitality and to capture the majestic beauty that is New Mexico. With twelve-foot high ceilings, vigas, and eighteen-inch thick walls, Casa del Gavilan (House of the Hawk) is a showplace of early Pueblo-revival architecture featuring artwork and sculptures by Frederick Remington, Charles Russell, Robert Redbird, and others. The casa will be reserved entirely for our group, so we will enjoy the privacy and security, and have plenty of freedom to photograph anywhere on the property uninterrupted. The casa itself presents stunning opportunities for photographs, with authentic exterior white adobe walls, a beautiful courtyard, and stunning southwestern interiors. The casa is nestled on 250 acres of northern desert landscape, providing endless inspiration and a wide variety of spaces to create breathtaking figurative work. Students are welcome to enjoy the hiking trails, and utilize the breadth of the property for individual work. Fresh meals will be provided by the inn for breakfast and lunch, and evening dinners prepared by a local cook. In the evenings, we will relax together with a nice glass of wine, cocktail, or a cup of tea, and enjoy the wonderful company and enchanting New Mexican landscape and authentic architecture surrounding us. This place feels like home to me, and I'm so excited to share with you my love for this beautiful state.



Tuition and Reservations:

Reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited to 7 students, with a possibility of 8 if a couple/close friends attend and can share a bed. If you would like to attend the workshop as a couple and can share a bed, please notify me so proper arrangements may be made for your lodging. To secure your space, email jenniferbthoreson@gmail.com, and I will send you the link to the online reservation form.

Workshop tuition is \$1750 and includes instruction, hair and makeup services for photography, opportunities to create your own work with a variety of models, lodging, wonderful meals and evening cocktails, and a one hour private 1:1 meeting. 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

This year's workshop will be held at the historic Casa Del Gavilan in Cimmaron, located in beautiful Northern New Mexico, high on the old Santa Fe Trail. Flights may be booked to arrive in either Albuquerque or Santa Fe airports. From Albuquerque, the drive north to Cimmaron is approximately 3 hours. From Santa Fe, the drive is approximately 2 hours. Amtrak offers a coach seat for around \$40 from Albuquerque to Raton, NM. A staff person can pick you up from the station in Raton and bring you to the inn if you choose to ride the train. In past years, students have coordinated with one another and shared rental cars, or have opted to drive themselves and sightsee along the way. If you'd like to fly in a day early and take your time driving through New Mexico, you can inquire about booking an extra night at the inn, or look into the many unique properties to stay in Northern New Mexico—including the wonderful hot springs at Oho Caliente, or the Earth Ship homes just outside of Taos. We will gather at the casa in the late afternoon on Monday, September 20th, and have a group dinner and orientation at around 6pm. Our first session begins on Tuesday morning. The workshop will end at 11am on Thursday, September 23. Depending on your route, you may enjoy stopping in Santa Fe's Turquoise Trail arts district, historic Chimayo, Georgia O'Keefe's Ghost Ranch, Taos, or Tent Rocks—all wonderful opportunities for unique photographs. The inn is also near Angelfire and Red River, both popular tourist destinations. If you would like to arrange for a model to photograph before or after the workshop, contact me directly and we can discuss options for you.

During the workshop, we will have a wonderful professional hair and makeup artist, and three 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.