

Hvar Artist Retreat

6-14 September, 2015

Island of Hvar, Croatia

Our artist retreat is based in the quiet little fishing port of Vrboska, a quaint huddle of medieval stone houses around a peaceful inlet. Everyone walks around the village, nothing is very far, and no cars are allowed on the waterfront during summer.

We have two supermarkets, a fishing museum, post office, winery, several bakeries and a good choice of cafes and restaurants. At night from our terrace we can see the Milky Way overhead, and hear... blissful silence!

Right: reflections in the upper harbour in Vrboska

Below: review of paintings



Painting Sites

The island of Hvar is set in the beautiful Adriatic Sea, just to the south of Split. Around 50 miles long, it's covered in pine forests and known for lavender fields, vineyards and olive groves. In the summer it's popular with sun-seekers, but by September it's much more peaceful. The weather is pleasant, the sea is still warm, and it's just perfect for getting out and about.

There are many lovely places where we can sit and sketch or paint, some within walking distance of Vrboska, for others we'll have transportation.

Individual projects

This will be a small group, and each artist will set their own goals for the week. You may paint en plein air, sketch on site or simply take photographs to work on later. It's really up to you.

As a group, we'll discuss individual projects and decide how we want to spend our time. There will be a quiet space to paint - in my studio, in the gallery or courtyard, and we'll have a base directly on the waterfront.

Once a day, generally at the end of an afternoon, we'll get together for a show and tell.



Sample itinerary

Day 1 (Monday): Vrboska

Orientation – we start the day with an early morning walk around Vrboska's harbour and backalleys. Sunrise is the absolute best time to take photos, as the warm light catches the old stone buildings and the boats, and the reflections are perfect.

Discussion of projects. Paint & sketch on the waterfront with Konoba Lem as a base, or set up in the studio /courtyard. We'll go into the famous church-fortress and take in the view from the roof, tour the Fisherman's Museum, and look at traditional fishing boats.

Day 2 (Tuesday): Stari Grad & the fields

Drive to Stari Grad, where we will paint in the 16th century summer residence of the Croatian poet Petar Hektorovic, with its famous fish pool and garden, and visit the nearby Biankini palace, now the museum of Stari Grad.

After lunch, we'll visit the Stari Grad plain - sketch the ruins of an ancient Roman farmhouse, Agro-turizam Pharos (lovely shaded area surrounded by olive groves with hens, goats, donkeys and horses, and wine-tasting available.), and if time allows look at a rather fine example of a Trim, the traditional dry-stone field shelter.

Day 3 (Wednesday): Atelier Marinka in Dol

Drive to Marinka's art studio in nearby Dol, where we'll spend the day painting and discussing art. Marinka is a Slovenian artist who has a lovely old farmyard complex adapted as a creative space where she paints in watercolours and oils, and exhibits her art.

Take a picnic lunch or salads to share. We'll have dinner at Marinka's with non-painting partners also welcome.

Day 4 (Thursday): Velo and Malo Grablje

Drive over the top of the island to the double village of Velo Grablje and Malo Grablje. We'll look around Velo Grablje, then either drive down to Malo Grablje, or you can follow the old path down the valley if you want a walk. We'll spend the morning painting around the deserted village of Malo Grablje, tucked away in a quiet rocky canyon.

Lunch at the Stori Komin – the village konoba is still open for business! On the way home, we can visit the seaside village of Milna to complete the story. This is where all the villagers went!

Day 5 (Friday): Coastal Trail / Beach

Walk round the nearby Glavice headland coastal trail. Paint on the beach, and swim. The north shore is more rugged and



rocky, while the south shore is sheltered and shady. Should not be busy at this time in the season, but the water will be beautifully warm for swimming. There is a cafe bar for drinks, lunch and ice cream. In the later afternoon, sketching/painting in a nearby vineyard/olive grove, followed by a BBQ dinner.

Day 6 (Saturday): Hvar town

Morning free. In mid-afternoon, drive to Hvar town. Walk up to Fortica to take in the famous view, wander around the old streets, visit the Benedictine nuns' agave lace exhibit. Visit the renaissance garden and summer villa of Hanibal Lucic. Browse galleries and shops.

Day 7 (Sunday): Vineyards and inland villages

Morning free. Review of paintings. Late afternoon – drive to Pitve for sketching and painting - hilltop villages, vineyards, olive groves and glorious views. Our final evening dinner is at Dvor Dubokovic, a traditional Dalmatian peka with spectacular views as the sun sets. We may even get some local musicians to entertain us.

Actual locations throughout the week may vary, depending on personal choices and weather!

Other options include:

The nearby market town of Jelsa is an easy walk along the coast. More strenuous hikes might be to Tor, Galesnik, or Grapceva Spilja. **Humac** shepherds' village on the top of the island, now mostly abandoned. Take the path up to the summit for fantastic 360 degree panoramic views. **Meneghello's on Palmizana** on the Pakleni islands is one of the most artistic and stylish resorts, kind of Caribbean jazz meets Dalmatian stone. Renowned restaurant, art gallery and arboretum. And of course, wine-tasting at any of the excellent local wineries!

Accommodation

Your accommodation will be an authentic stone fisherman's house, beautifully converted into apartments with modern facilities. There are four separate apartments, each sleeping two people, with their own kitchen and outdoor terrace.

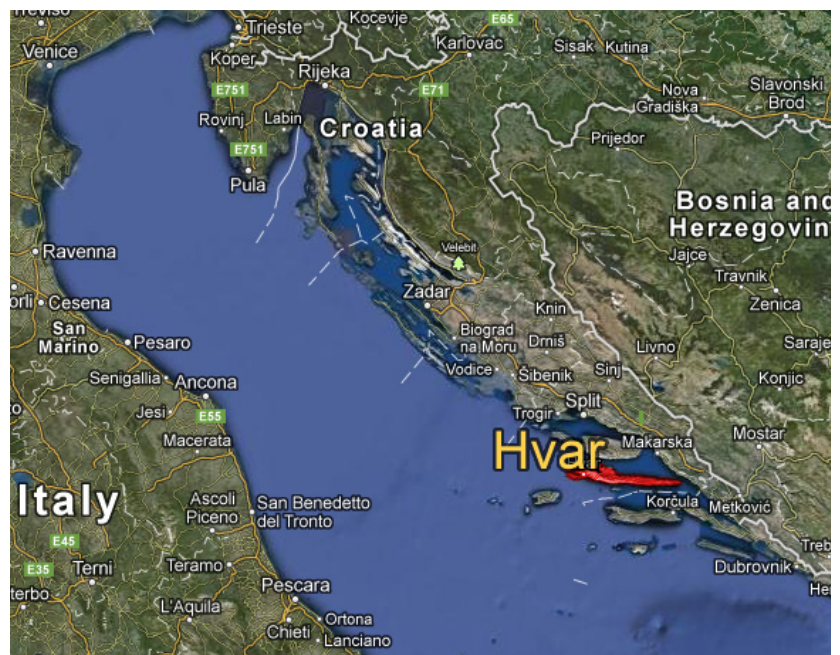
In addition, we have two lovely guest rooms in our own house, each with en-suite bathroom.

Getting there

The closest international airport is Split. We usually fly United or Lufthansa from San Francisco to Frankfurt, and onwards to Split via Lufthansa or Croatia Airlines.

There are buses and taxis from the airport to the ferry terminal. Or you might like to rent a car at the airport, especially if bringing a non-painting partner!

We will pick up from the ferry terminal at Stari Grad on Hvar, and take you to your apartment in Vrboska.



Suggestions for what to bring

There's nowhere on the island to buy art supplies, not unless you count the marine supplies and household brushes! So you will need to bring anything you need with you in the way of brushes, paper, paint, canvas, pencils, pens, etc. Also folding stool, travelling easel or whatever support you like. If collaging, you may be able to source found objects locally for an interesting assemblage!

General household products are readily available in local supermarkets, eg paper towels, paper cups and plates, water containers and some kids art stuff. Insect repellent – very important in September - is also available locally.

Cost

Artist Retreat costs only \$995 per person*

This includes 7 days of painting, 8 nights accommodation (double occupancy), transportation to painting sites, entry fees and tours. Welcome dinner with wine on arrival on Sunday evening, a day at Atelier Marinka with dinner and drinks, lunch and drinks at the Stori Komin in Malo Grablje, and a final sunset dinner with wine, and hopefully live music at the beautiful Dvor Duboković.

Other food and wine will be left to your own choice, and obviously you can go self-catering if you wish. Other special group meals may be arranged during the week, in which case, the cost will be in the region of 200 kuna a head.

Reservations

Email or phone me to check availability. To reserve your place we require a deposit in the amount of \$400 per person. The balance is due by June 1, 2015.

*Price is based on double occupancy, a single room supplement of \$240 applies.

Cancellation Policy. Deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel up to 60 days before the start of the retreat, any further payments will be refunded. Within 60 days of the retreat, no refunds will be paid. We advise the purchase of travel and health insurance to cover your trip.

For more information

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