



INFORMATION PACKET (English)

September 25 – 29, 2019
Ceglie Messapica, Puglia, Italy

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www.archistrati.com/education/2019sketch

a HANDS-ON sketching workshop
with **Simo Capecchi** and **Amanda Roelle**





This isn't your typical drawing and painting workshop, focused on honing one's artistic skills and learning new techniques under the tutelage of a maestra in a stunning location in Italy. **But that and more!**

Disegnare e Fare, which literally translates to drawing and making, is a workshop dedicated to **sketchers** and **artists** who want to go beyond observation and get their hands dirty, to **architects** who want to practice drawing from life as well as investigate and learn the techniques used to construct the buildings surrounding them, and to **travelers** seeking a deeper relationship with and knowledge of the unique characteristics and activities of a special place like the Valle d'Itria.

This 4-day course in the Valle d'Itria focuses on and celebrates the unique characteristics and activities around the medieval town of Ceglie Messapica (Ceglie), located in the Valle d'Itria area of the southern Italian region of Puglia. An unmistakable feature of the area is stone and the ingenious ways it has been used, from the dry-stone walls lining the roads to the *trullo*, the signature building type of the region. September is the month of the *vendemmia* (wine making) and almond harvesting. Ceglie is especially famous for its almonds and the local *biscotto ceglie*, a delicious biscuit made with all local ingredients.

INTRODUCTION

If I listen I forget, if I draw I remember, if I do I learn

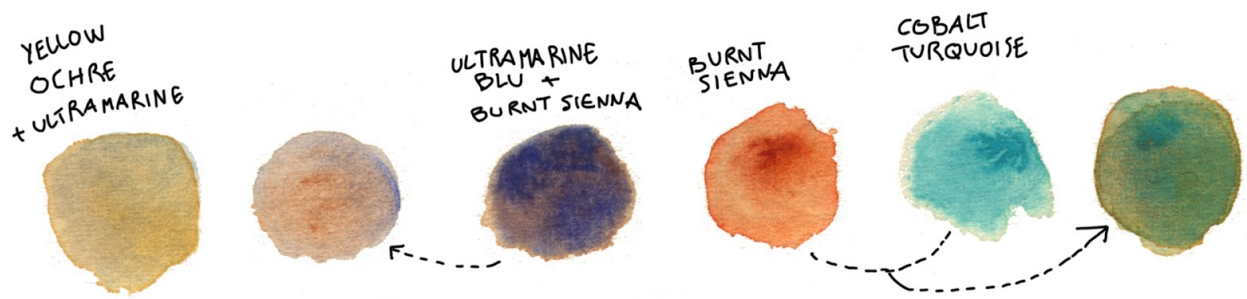
Drawing from life, or observational drawing, is a contemplative activity, a sort of meditation or an act of love towards something that strikes us or something that we want to preserve memory of. Time stops when we draw. For Simo, drawing people on the move or working, explaining or telling their activities, processes, recipes, is a way to free herself from the purely contemplative act and to create a reportage both with images and words that will be shared.

By doing things with our hands, through immersion and experiential learning, we engage and experience our surroundings, both natural and built, at a deeper, more visceral level. This is how Amanda prefers to learn about and share the architectural heritage, agricultural practices, and culinary traditions of the place where she has chosen to live.

After many workshops of only sketching (Simo) and only building (Amanda), we decided to combine these two activities that we find so rewarding and regenerating, as a pause and antidote to the digital and virtual universe, to which despite our best intentions, we dedicate so much time.

Collaborating with a local chef and stone mason, we have organized a workshop dedicated to activities and a place we are passionate about. The goal is to offer participants not only a creative and inspiration space to sketch, but a unique experience of the Valle d'Itria that ultimately leads to a deeper understanding, appreciation, and respect for the history, place, and people of the area.

With Simo the participants will experiment with **watercolor and landscape** during a vernacular architecture walk (through mini sketches and a fine-tuned Valle d'Itria color palette); **drawing as reportage** to record nomenclature, tools and phases of dry stone construction (with pen and soluble ink); **urban sketching** in the town of Ceglie, with particular attention to contrasts and shadows in a "white city" (with watercolor), and the **design of culinary recipe book**, including live reportage and illustration (pen, watercolor, colored pencils or acrylic). We hope you can join us!



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Wednesday, 25/9

Arrival and opening dinner

Thursday, 26/9

Morning: Coptic Bookbinding, **make your sketchbook**

Afternoon: Stone Vernacular Architecture, **sketch and walking tour**

Friday, 27/9

Morning: Stone Vernacular Architecture, **make or sketch a dry stone wall**

Afternoon: Stone Vernacular Architecture, **make or sketch a trullo cone**

Saturday, 28/9

Morning: *Vendemmia* (wine making), **make (and taste) wine**

Afternoon: Ceglie Messapica, a medieval white town built of stone, **sketch, drink and draw**, and dinner

Sunday, 29/9

Morning: Almond harvest, **make traditional "biscotti ceglieesi"**

Afternoon: **Sketch and paint your Puglia recipe book**, closing dinner

WORKSHOP FEES

Basic Workshop Fee: €395.00

Includes:

Instruction and materials*

Lunch for Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Opening dinner on Wednesday and closing dinner on Sunday

Transport to and from Ostuni or Ceglie Messapica on Wednesday and Monday

Workshop Fee Including Accommodation: €545.00

Includes:

Five nights (including breakfast) in multi-occupancy room (3 max) at Casa Cilona**

Dinner on Thursday and Friday

Everything in Basic Workshop Fee

* Participants must bring their own choice of paper for coptic bookbinding sketchbook.

** There are separate accommodations for men and women. Bedding and towels are provided.

DETAILED PROGRAM

Wednesday, 25/9

Arrival, dinner at Casa Cilona

Transport provided to Casa Cilona from Ostuni or Ceglie throughout the day

Thursday, 26/9 – Sketchbook Making and Sketchwalk

Morning: Make your sketchbook - Coptic Bookbinding

Instructor: Amanda; Location: Casa Cilona

Together we will make a sketchbook to use for the rest of the workshop. The Coptic bookbinding method is an early method of binding dating to the 2nd century! All materials will be provided except the paper for the signatures (the inside pages) and the cover. Bring the paper in which you want to use.

Afternoon: Walk and draw on a sketch tour highlighting different architectural typologies and landscapes of the area

Instructor: Simo for sketching; Amanda for architectural tour; Location: Pascarosa

A slow five kilometer walk through a small village and countryside where we'll stop and draw.

Friday, 27/9 – Stone Building and sketched reportage

Morning: Repair a dry-stone wall using traditional techniques, or sketch the process

Instructor: Mario Santoro, trullaro, Simo for sketching; Location: Casa Cilona

Learn and practice methods used to repair a dry-stone wall, a feature ubiquitous to the area that was added to UNESCO's List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2018.

Afternoon: Build a trullo cone using traditional techniques or sketch the process

Instructor: Mario Santoro, trullaro; Simo for sketching; Location: Casa Cilona

Learn and build with a master trullo builder how a trullo roof (cone) is constructed using traditional methods, materials and tools.

Saturday, 28/9 – Wine Making, Tasting and sketching

Morning: Be part of the 2019 Vendemmia! (Wine making) Harvest grapes and sketch in a local vineyard

Instructor: Simo; Location: Local Winery

**The day of the vendemmia is determined by weather and can't be predicted in advance. If we can't harvest grapes we will still sketch and learn about winemaking at a local winery.*

Afternoon: Sketching Ceglie Messapica

Instructor: Simo and Amanda; Location: Ceglie Messapica center

Explore one of Puglia's medieval "white cities" and have an aperitivo in the main piazza. We'll visit a bakery famous for their *biscotti cegliesi* (the almond biscuit we're making the next day) and eat together at a casual osteria or pizzeria serving the best local dishes.

** Note that the cost of dinner is not included in the workshop fee.*

Sunday, 29/9 – Almond Harvesting, Biscuit Making and sketching

Morning: Making *biscotti cegliesi*

Instructor: Tonino; Location: Casa Cilona

Ceglie's signature almond cookie is regionally famous and is exported throughout the world due to the special variety of almond and other local ingredients. It is recognized by the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity. More info [here](#).

Afternoon: Sketch and paint your culinary Puglia recipe book

Instructor: Tonino and Simo; Location: Casa Cilona

Throughout the 4 days together we will be eating very well using fresh, local ingredients and recipes. This is your chance to learn the secrets from Tonino, or just enjoy eating and sketching.

Monday, 30/9

Departure. Transport provided from Casa Cilona to Ostuni or Ceglie throughout the day

THE INSTRUCTORS



Simo Capecci studied Architecture in Venice and completed her PhD degree at the University of Naples (Italy) in Architectural Drawing but she prefers to draw and work as an illustrator. Simo has lectured and lead free-hand drawing courses for ten years at the Architecture Faculty of the University of Naples. She has been an instructor in many international Urban Sketchers Symposiums around the world since their foundation. In the last 10 years she has organized several Urban Sketchers Workshops in Naples, Ischia and Volterra (Tuscany). She likes to draw on location, reporting people's activities live. In 2018 she published "Il San Carlo dietro le quinte", a sketched reportage on San Carlo Opera Theatre in Naples, backstage. Since 2015 she is the back page columnist on the Italian travel magazine "DOVE" (Rizzoli-Corriere della Sera). Puglia's dry stone constructions has been her first architectural love, explored as a child when she used to spend vacations in this region with her family. *Simo is the artist who will be leading the sketching portions of the workshop.* Meet Simo [in this video](#). See her works: in English [on Urban Sketchers](#), Portfolio on [Flickr](#), news on [Facebook](#)

Amanda Roelle in 2012 left her life working full time as a restoration architect on the historic masonry high-rises of Chicago and now lives in a trullo in Ceglie (with summers working in Chicago). She developed [A Spasso Con Un Architetto](#) as an architectural educational initiative for exploration and engagement with the vernacular architecture of the Valle d'Itria, and founded Archistrati, an architecture and sustainability consulting firm (www.archistrati.com). Intrigued and inspired by different ways of living on the planet, Amanda has travelled extensively. She has collaborated on sustainable building, community development, and small-scale agriculture projects in the U.S., Europe, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Africa. She never ceases to be amazed by our individual and collective creativity, and the endurance of the human spirit. She is thrilled to be sharing the architecture of the trulli and the beauty of Puglia during the workshop. *Amanda Roelle is the overall coordinator for the workshop. As well as teaching bookbinding, Amanda will lead the excursions and walks around the area.*



Tonino Tuma is from Mesagne, Puglia. After working for many years as a building surveyor alongside architects and archeologists, he followed his childhood passion of cooking and worked as a chef in Sardinia and Greece. Combining his skills of construction and restoration along with cooking and hospitality he created the B&B Casa Cilona, the workshop site. He maintains a vegetable garden based on the principles of permaculture, and has three donkeys which will eventually be part of the "slow tourism" he is developing for exploration of the area. *Tonino is the owner and chef of Casa Cilona and will be teaching how to make biscotti cegliesi.*

Mario Santoro is the workshop project *trullaro*, or master trullo builder. Mario comes from Ceglie and a family of *trullari*. Thirty years ago, when he was in his twenties, there were only three *trullari* left in Ceglie - one very old and retired, another, his older uncle (also retired), and the third was his father. The art of building trulli around Ceglie was that close to being lost! He now builds and restores trulli and stone walls. He has collaborated with Amanda on many workshops since 2014. *Mario will be teaching the activities related to stone.*





LOCATION

The workshop will take place in and around Ceglie, one of the white medieval towns in the Valle d'Itria area of Puglia, southern Italy. Our base will be Casa Cilona, a guesthouse consisting of trulli and stone vaulted structures, nestled among centuries-old olive, fruit and nut trees.



Casa Cilona does not have a proper website but you can view a map [here](#) and their facebook site [here](#).

REGISTRATION DETAILS

The workshop is **limited to 10 participants**. An initial deposit of €100 is due by August 1, 2019 to secure your spot. The remaining will be collected at the workshop. There is a minimum number of 7 participants to run the workshop so please don't make any travel arrangements without confirming the workshop is happening.

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the workshop (see Arrival Details), including air and train fare. If you cancel your enrollment before August 25, 2019, we will refund all payments.

To apply, or to ask for more information, email Amanda Roelle at amanda@archistrati.com.

PASSPORTS & INSURANCE

Unless you live in the EU you will need a passport to enter the country. It's a good idea to travel with a copy of your passport, as it will make getting a replacement much easier. Travel insurance is not required but highly recommended. Some recommended travel insurance providers are [World Nomads](#), [STA Travel](#), and [USI Travel Insurance Services](#). Note that you will be asked to sign a release waiver at the beginning of the workshop.



MAKING TRAVEL PLANS

The workshop and accommodation are in the countryside of Ceglie Messapica, a town located in the Valle d'Itria area of the region of Puglia. The nearest airport to Ceglie is Brindisi. The nearest train station is Ostuni. Arrival is anytime on Wednesday, September 25 and departure is on Monday, September 30. We will be available to pick students up at the train station in Ostuni or the train station or bus station in Ceglie on the arrival days. Once you have made your travel plans send the details to Amanda via email. If you are having trouble making arrangements feel free to contact Amanda with any questions.

Arrival by Plane

You can arrive to Puglia by plane through Bari or Brindisi, though Brindisi is closer to Ceglie. There are direct flights to Brindisi from Rome through the airline Alitalia and Ryan Air. Flights are cheaper if booked in advance.

If you are arriving by plane to Bari or Brindisi you will take a train to Ostuni. From the Brindisi airport there is a city bus (runs twice an hour, approx 10 min) that takes you directly to the Brindisi train station. Tickets for the bus are 1€. You can buy the ticket at the bookshop in the airport. There is also an ATM in the airport for you to withdraw some euros. Once you arrive at the Brindisi train station, take the train to Ostuni (approx 25 min., tickets €2.90).

If you arrive through the Bari airport you can take a train or bus to the main train station, Bari Centrale, and take a train to Ostuni (approx 1 hr., tickets €5.70).

Arrival by Train or Bus

The nearest main train station to Ceglie is Ostuni, and you can arrive by train from Rome or Milan. Book via [Trenitalia](https://www.trenitalia.com).

There are several bus companies servicing Puglia including [Flixbus](https://www.flixbus.com), [Marino](https://www.marino.it).

Additionally, there is a picturesque local train and bus company called the Ferrovie del Sud Est line that arrives directly to Ceglie from other towns in Puglia. See timetables at [Ferrovie del Sud Est](https://www.ferroviedelsudest.it).

WHAT TO BRING

September is a gorgeous month in Puglia with the days warm and sunny however the evenings can be chilly. Bring comfortable walking shoes or sandals and a light sweater or sweatshirt for evenings.

If you plan to be hands-on for the stone work day bring comfortable work clothes and protective shoes. Tennis shoes are ok but no sandals. Work gloves and safety glasses will be provided for those participating in the stone work.

Other personal items include mosquito repellent, hat and sun protection, water bottle, European adapter, and if you prefer, a light stool for sketching. Your choice of paper for the pages and cover of your homemade sketchbook.

Ceglie doesn't have an art shop so bring all paints, pens, pencils, etc. you prefer to use. If you need help, email Simo: simo.capecchi@gmail.com

Regarding phone use, check with your carrier for rates and plans. There is WiFi available at Casa Cilona but only in common areas around the property (not in bedrooms).



MORE ON THE VALLE D'ITRIA AND TRULLI (Amanda's musings)

A walk through the Valle d'Itria is a full-on sensory experience, not something one only experiences with their eyes, but with their whole being. It is a place of adaptability and resilience, where outside and inside become blurred, and the way one lives becomes intrinsically linked to their surroundings. One is immediately immersed in the earthy smells of wild herbs underfoot, the constant Mediterranean breeze, and the unavoidable presence of raw stone.

For centuries humans have sculpted this landscape to render it habitable and productive. With extreme resourcefulness, farmers moved earth, terraced fields, and built stone retaining walls to hold back soil and capture rainwater. They excavated bedrock, creating cisterns for rain water storage. The stone shelters among the vineyards and olive groves appear to have grown right out of the ground below and in some instances they did. Stone excavated for a cistern was used to build the walls and the roof of the dwelling adjacent to, or in some cases directly above the cistern. Indeed, it is a grounding and unusual experience to be inside of a building completely constructed of the material excavated from right beneath your feet.

The buildings of the Valle d'Itria are unique to this place simply because they could not be anywhere else.

The structures we inhabit today are often composed of manufactured materials and the construction is usually hidden behind drywall, plaster, and furnishings. The stone buildings found in Puglia, whether they be the dry-stone, cone-shaped trulli, the intricately vaulted, mortared buildings of the fortified medieval towns, or the remains of Rupestrian cave dwellings carved from the soft stone of the gravine, offer a way to observe and experience raw material used in an honest, creative, and beautiful way.

An Abundance Of Stone

The trulli and other stone structures of the Valle d'Itria are not simply objects in a landscape; rather they embody the souls and stories of the people who built them. The masons of these structures were people of exceptional ingenuity, who used limiting material to their advantage.

These dwellings are also reflective of the geologic conditions underfoot. The seemingly deep red soil on the surface quickly gives way to a karst geology, a limestone labyrinth of fissures and canyons. The stone is limitless, and relentless. Sometimes referred to as "the land that grows stone", farmers and herders overtime have worked tirelessly to clear their fields of the small boulders constantly emerging from the ploughed soil.

The area also lacks surface water sources like lakes and rivers, and rain water is collected in cisterns during the rainy winter months to last throughout the dry summer. Given these physical conditions: the karst geology, the abundance of stone available, and the lack of sand from lakes and rivers typically used for mortar in masonry construction, it's not surprising that a dry-stone typology emerged.

Stone is a limiting material for building, but creativity comes from limitations.

A trullo is the most common example of vernacular architecture in the Valle d'Itria and has become the signature building type of Puglia. A trullo is built of stones collected and quarried on site, and constructed without mortar. Similar ancient form and building typology is found across the Mediterranean and places in Europe and the Middle East where the stone was suitable to this type of construction. The trulli are particularly interesting because they are still inhabited and being restored for modern day use.