

Sienna Academy Report 2017 - 2018

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For Painting Therapy and Artistic Painting according to the method of Liane Collot d'Herbois

What courses are offered by the Sienna Academy?

The Sienna Academy now runs three trainings:

- 1) Post Graduate Training, Flaxton, Australia
- 2) Post Graduate Training, Guangzhou, China
- 3) Foundation Course, Chiang Dao, Thailand

in Australia we are now in our 3rd round of training. We have had one graduation earlier this year and a few more on the way for the coming months. There are 13 students currently enrolled; others are applying. We are still blessed to be using a beautiful venue with extensive grounds – There are many interesting groups of trees, old tree stumps, shrubs, flowers and shady corners; very nurturing and ideal for outdoor observations. Inside there is a large main studio space with floor to ceiling windows, giving excellent light for the art work. The room also has very good acoustics so that when we sing in the morning we do sound like angels – probably a biased view!



In Guangzhou, China, the students who started in 2016, will be finishing with their contact hours in December 2019. More have since joined, so there will be ongoing modules to make sure that all can complete. There are 30 committed students at the moment. We are planning a deepening course Students in Australia when they have graduated. Students are already very excited about this opportunity! For the past year, we have been holding the course in a beautiful new venue – a Steiner school still in its early stages with enough space for us to use. It is a warm mellow brick building, arranged around a grass courtyard. There are flowers everywhere; in fact, the name of the school is “Grandmother Flower School. The manager for this course is Hou Binjie, a very committed and capable young woman, who also participates in the classes whenever she can.



In Chiang Dao, in the North of Thailand, there is a new Liane Collot d'Herbois Foundation Course. This is hosted by Anupan Pluckpankhajee and his wife Rungvisa Rungtanapat (Jing) in their beautiful purpose built studio. It is in a country area, with rice fields and farm land all around, with a dramatic mountain backdrop. The course will run for one year, with three, 2 week modules. The first one already took place in December 2017; the second will be in July and the third in December 2018. There are 10 very enthusiastic students who are committed to participate in all 3 modules. Participation in these 3 modules will be the equivalent of the first 3 modules of the post Graduate Training.



What were the most important developments?

In Australia, our medical doctor, Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna now stream-lines her medical talks into one day workshops and also makes them available to a wider public. In this way more people can benefit from her medical wisdom.

In China, our course organizer, Hao Binjie, organized a very successful online book reading club, so that the Liane Collot d'Herbois book: 'Light Darkness and Colour', could reach a wider audience. The painting Therapy medical lectures given by our medical doctor, Dr. Maria Van Den Burg, have been made available to teachers at the school, and also to students of a nearby eurythmy school. This gathers together a stimulating mix of young people interested in Anthroposophy.

In Thailand, the most important development was that we started with a committed group of students who are prepared to go through all 3 foundation modules. students commented that it was the best Art Course they had ever attended.

What was the best training moment?

In Australia, students who have reached the stage of working with their own clients are supervised until they graduate. It is very inspiring to see the way in which all that they have learnt is put into practice. This can be seen in the way in which they interact with their clients; in the diagnostic work and the designing of a therapeutic pathway. I also enjoy the enthusiasm with which they begin this new adventure of working with their own clients.

In China, the students of the training have a group Wechat. They often use this to post pictures up of colourful sunsets, or unusual colour phenomena, and to comment on what they have seen. A new world has opened up for them and it is clearly very enriching for their lives. Through their shared experiences both in the class and in between modules, they have also become a close knit and supportive community.

In Thailand it was inspiring to see how much confidence the students gained throughout the 2 weeks. Especially meaningful for them was discovering new ways to observe different phenomena in the world. They also gained confidence in the power of their own memories. This was clearly evident in a 4-part observation exercise. The first 2 parts being outside in nature, using the same chosen corner each time; and the second 2 parts being inside in the studio, from memory. Each student was surprised and delighted how much they could remember of their chosen corner of observation and how alive and vivid each picture became.

