

**SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY  
SUMMER LITURGICAL INSTITUTE  
& SEATTLE ICON STUDIES INSTITUTE**

**STMM 593 ART & SPIRITUALITY: WRITING ICONS**

**July 6 – July 14, 2007**

**INSTRUCTORS**

**Deacon Charles Rohrbacher** is an accomplished printmaker and has been a student and painter of icons for over 25 years. He has trained under the guidance of Dimitri Shkolnik in San Francisco, California and later studied under Fr. Egon Sendler, S.J. at the Centre d'Etudes Russes in Meudon, France. As founder of the Icon Institute he taught icon painting for many years at Mount Angel Abbey in St. Benedict, Oregon. He is currently on the staff of the Office of Ministries for Diocese of Juneau, Alaska.

**Fr. Josef Venker, SJ, MFA** is a member of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus and has been a member of the Jesuit Community at Seattle University since 1994. He currently teaches drawing, painting, printmaking, calligraphy and ceramic sculpture in the Department of Fine Arts. His academic interests lie in the area of Creation Centered Spirituality and the relationship between art and religious experience. His studio practice focuses on abstract painting based on nature and the letter forms of the Hebrew Alphabet.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Icon Painting Workshop is a nine-day experiential course providing a hands-on exploration of the traditional production techniques, theological understandings, and liturgical traditions of icons. Prior art experience is helpful but not necessary - adaptations will be made according to individual experience and the limitations of time. Taking a historical and ecumenical approach we will attempt to integrate the spirituality and theology of icons within the larger context of painted religious imagery. Attention will be paid to their historical relevance as well as the contemporary revival in interest.

Practicing this form of art as prayer and mediation invites participants into a retreat-like atmosphere with a dedicated daily order. Most days will include morning and afternoon painting secession as well as the daily opportunity to attend morning and evening prayer and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. A special effort will be made on Sunday to attend an Eastern Rite Church using icons as an integral part of the liturgy. The workshop will conclude with a special rite for the blessing of the students' icons.

Optional evening programs will include a keynote address, an artist's talk, a classic film, and an icon centered prayer service. Most evening secessions will be open to the public.

## LEARNING GOALS

- Acquire a knowledge of the practice of painting a devotional work of religious art.
- Gain an understanding of the different traditions of icons within the Christian Churches.
- Increase an awareness and appreciation of one of Christianity's oldest devotional practices.
- Experience an integrated synthesis of spirituality and art from both Eastern/Western, ancient/contemporary perspectives
- Pray using icons as a locus for liturgical worship and private devotion.

## MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

A supply fee of \$100 will be collected the first day of class. This will provide all necessary materials. Experienced students are encouraged to bring along any additional supplies they may wish to use.

Each student should bring along a sketchbook or notebook/journal.

## SOME RECOMMENDED TEXTS (Useful but not required.) (rev. 12.1.06)

*Behold the Beauty of the Lord*  
Henri Nouwen. Ave Maria Press

*The Meaning of Icons*  
Leonid Ouspensky. St. Vladimir's Press.

*Praying with Icons*  
Jim Forrest. Orbis Press, Maryknoll, New York, 2006.  
ISBN 1-57075-112-9

*Sacred Doorways: A Beginner's Guide to Icons*  
Linette Martin. Paraclete Press, Brewster, MA, 2002.  
ISBN 1-55725-307-2

*Windows to Heaven: Introducing Icons to Protestants and Catholics*  
Elizabeth Zelensky & Lela Gilbert. Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003.  
ISBN 1-58743-109-2

## ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

(draft 12.1.06)

<b>DAY 1</b> Fri July 6	Evening:	Introduction / Orientation / Supplies
<b>DAY 2</b> Sat. July 7	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Panel Preparation Drawing Preparation open
<b>DAY 3</b> Sun. July 8	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Sunday Eastern Rite Liturgy Drawing Transfer Liturgical Institute: Keynote Address
<b>DAY 4</b> Mon. July 9	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Gilding I Gilding II Icon Studies Institute: Artist's Talk (Charles Rohrbacher)
<b>DAY 5</b> Tues. July 10	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Painting I Color Wash Painting II Color Wash open
<b>DAY 6</b> Wed. July 11	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Painting III Base Coats Painting IV Base Coats Liturgical Institute: TBA
<b>DAY 7</b> Thurs. July 12	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Painting V Shadows Painting VI Shadows Liturgical Institute: Evening Prayer with Icons
<b>DAY 8</b> Fri. July 13	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Painting VII Highlights Painting VIII Highlights Icon Studies Institute: Film
<b>DAY 9</b> Sat. July 14	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:	Painting IX Details Painting X Outlining Rite of Blessing & Closing Celebration