



Darla Donley

Artist/Instructor

Darla is an award-winning fine art oil painter. She has been painting and teaching over 9 years. Her artwork can be found in several locations in St. Augustine and New Smyrna Beach. Her artwork has graced the cover of the St. Augustine Entertainer magazine four times in 2023 already and a total of eight times since late 2019.

Darla is passionate about teaching oil painting classes. She enjoys teaching people how to paint realistic paintings whether it be a person or an animal. She uses an old master's portrait technique that starts with the first layer being painted in one color only, burnt umber. This technique adds depth and dimension to the painting which drastically improves the realism. Most portrait classes are 4-day workshops.

Darla shares all of her knowledge to help each student paint the best portrait. She breaks down the process into steps that the student can manage. It brings her great joy to see the student light up when they paint and understand the various techniques they have learned. She shares every tool and technique that she uses herself. Beginners are welcome. No drawing experience needed. Yes, you can do it. Classes are guaranteed as long as the student puts forth good faith effort to paint their portrait.

Darla also teaches other oil painting techniques like wet-on-wet, palette knife, and cold wax and oil painting classes. Some of these techniques are one day classes and the cold wax is a 3-day workshop.

Darla accepts custom portrait commissions of people, pets, or other animals. Feel free to contact her for a quote. Most custom portraits take between 8-12 weeks to finish depending on the size and detail.

Certificates:

Valerie Stewart – Certified Portrait Instructor

Marion Dutton – MazArt Associate Painting Partner (Portraits too)

Wilson Bickford – Trained Teacher for a variety of wet-on-wet techniques

Bob Ross – landscape and floral

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