

Maggie Siner - Student Comments

Evaluations by students from the Washington Studio School 1996-2014

Painting: All Levels

"Maggie is one of the most inspiring teachers I've ever had in my life, for any subject. She is magical in how she conveys her excitement and knowledge of painting. This is one of the most valuable courses I've ever taken. I can see a tremendous difference in my painting and my thinking."

Beginning/Intermediate Drawing

"I would take any class that Maggie teaches. She is a brilliant teacher. She is articulate, expressive, thought-provoking and funny. Her assignments make you see and think in a very original way, and with one line she can change a non-working mess on my page into an understandable work."

"Intelligent, articulate, skilled, truly interested in trying new approaches to teaching. Disciplined and organized."

Advanced Painting: Form and Structure

"Great course! The most challenging and intense course I've ever had. It covered painting issues (such as color) in enough depth that I made real breakthroughs in understanding on a regular basis and saw great improvements in my work as a result. Her instruction is excellent. It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to be in her class for a year. Maggie has a great ability to articulate an issue and attack it from several different approaches. If it doesn't sink in the first time there are other opportunities and other ways of getting at it. What I learned about color has changed the way I look at painting, at my work, and at the world around me."

"I have never heard color explained so coherently in all my years of studying painting!"

"The assignments and exercises are, quite literally, eye-opening experiences. Rather than providing ready-made 'formulas' the course allows each individual to make choices from a thorough confrontation with seeing and with the possibilities of the medium."

"Superb! Articulate, knowledgeable, exciting, brilliant. It has been a privilege to be her student."

"Maggie's class was wonderful! She provided great instruction, lots of wonderful ideas and guidance. Can we clone her?"

Anatomy for Figure Drawing (I, II and III)

"Maggie is one of the most talented artists, teachers and all around human beings I've ever met. She is outstanding in her ability to consistently challenge each student no matter where they start and as they move along the spectrum of learning. She is constantly personable, directed, attentive, and faithfully makes several rounds throughout each class period visiting every student's easel more than once and giving excellent cogent thoughtful and supportive criticism. Students thrive in the atmosphere she sets for her classes. She brings all her accomplished understanding of painting, art history and the learning process to her teaching. She really knows her stuff, and no one else has such a clear grasp of what's important in anatomy. We are so lucky to have her! This class directly

addressed the mechanics of the human skeleton, issues of planes, plane changes, how direction and emphasis of line constructs form - that I have not encountered anywhere else."

"I think I have learned more in this class than I have in all my years of drawing. Maggie is fabulous - a great treasure."

"This is a wonderfully informative, fascinating class. The only problem is that it is too short. Maggie Siner is a great teacher in every sense of the word. She teaches with energy, vibrance, thoughtfulness and humor. It is wonderful to watch her draw."

"This was a disciplined course from start to finish. Difficult but essential; also stimulating and fulfilling. Maggie was extremely well prepared and always began on time. She has great knowledge about the technical aspects of anatomy, but also knows how to teach this in a manner that stays with the student. This course will take months to digest, and I would surely take it again. Maggie was tremendous."

"Maggie has an incredible ability to explain concepts. Her enthusiasm for the subject is contagious. Her concern for each student's work on its own level is admirable. I would take this course again and again."

Landscape Painting in Provence 2012

"I loved the painting intensity of the trip and everything you bring to it - making you one of the most unforgettable people I've ever met. Beyond your painting mastery, your teaching is pure generosity of spirit and how you handle the variety of students was inspiring."

"Your workshop was one of the best that I've taken. Thank you so much for all the lectures, information, tips, thoughts and ideas that you gave on painting. I had the most wonderful time and couldn't believe how much I learned every day."

"To say THANK YOU seems so ridiculous!! That was the BEST WORKSHOP I have ever been to!!!! Thank you for your tireless energy and teaching...you are a REAL Teacher!!!...by that I mean someone who will help me grow in my own work and not just teach me how YOU do it...I really can't thank you enough!"

Color and Shape, Loudoun Academy of Art 2011

"Your mastery and joyful approach to oil painting came through loud and clear. To me, the greatness of this class was that you have penetrated to the universal common ground of art so that the class does not presume any "right and only way" to oil painting or the artistic vision motivating it; rather, you showed what is at stake and many practical ways that students could be more AWARE of what they are doing and efficient in doing it."

Art School at Sandy Springs, 2010

"Just wanted to drop you a note to let you know how much I enjoyed the workshop last weekend. It was challenging, inspiring, and fun! I have had the desire to paint for many years and thought it would be something that just "poured out" of me :) I had no idea how much work must accompany the inner desire and "artistic spirit." Your teaching style is both encouraging and honest, and I appreciated both of those qualities."

"I wanted to thank you for all the wonderful wisdom and instruction. It is a kind of teaching that I have rarely gotten and most needed. The metaphysical and the practical instruction together are so inspiring and helpful."

Brazier Studio, 2007

"Your workshop was special for all of us. For me, you gave me so much to think about and try. You took us to the basics with a whole new approach - it all made so much sense. You were clear, energetic and fun and I personally loved the intensity."

"Thank you for offering a workshop that made a beginner feel comfortable learning along side those who are much more experienced!"

"I want to share a wonderful experience, on what it was like for me as an artist to be completely taken out of my 'comfort zone' and loving every minute of it! Recently I took a workshop on still life composition with well-known artist Maggie Siner. The reason I had signed up with Maggie's workshop was because her paintings look very loose and spontaneous. They show bold brushstrokes, yet are very harmonious, structured and colorful. I would like to 'loosen up' in my own paintings. On the list of suggested materials, there were a few items to bring to the class. Items of solid color, interesting shapes, not shiny. It took me a while to put together a nice collection of objects that had those characteristics and when combined, would tell an entire story. Friday evening we all gathered at the studio for a slide show and demo. Maggie explained her approach to painting by showing works of the Masters: First, look for the big shapes of light & dark. On Saturday morning, I had a big shock when I walked in the room. All my carefully chosen items had been placed onto several different tables to be incorporated in several different still life set-ups! There goes my carefully planned 'story' of a still life! I had to pick an easel and choose a still life of completely random objects! After a deep breath, I picked an easel, put my art supplies down, and then I noticed how Maggie had strategically placed the taboret (table for your palette) in front of the easel, which meant I could not get close to the canvas at all. I had to stretch my arm to reach the painting surface, which does not allow for any 'nitpicking'! The easels were also very tall, so there was no sitting down during this painting session....it forced us to walk back and forth and look at our work from a distance. After many sketches and experiments, demonstrations and explanations, I began to see the world in a completely new way. I began to see shapes and how they move across the canvas. I saw how colors interact and change each other and are not at all what you assume. I saw that the details and story are not what holds a painting together! My eyes and my painting will never be the same again. The workshop literally was a huge eye-opener. Maggie has an amazing way of explaining things. I'll be working on these new ideas for years to come."