

# AMERICAN ARTIST

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NOVEMBER 2011

Art Studio Watch

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The Amazon  
by Joseph Stella



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT

LAAFA students working from a live model.

**Jars**

by Alex Douziech, 2010, oil.

**Figure Painting**

by Marina Fridman.

## LOS ANGELES ACADEMY OF FIGURATIVE ART

Los Angeles, California

In the middle of the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles lies the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art (LAAFA). Once you open the doors to the inconspicuous building, you are greeted with walls of artwork from students and instructors. This school is a haven for anyone who is serious about becoming an artist and finding his or her own voice in today's chaotic contemporary scene. All students receive one-on-one experiences with instructors, and this hands-on approach of working together makes LAAFA one of Los Angeles' most respected schools.

LAAFA provides a strong technical foundation in drawing and painting, tempered with

a realization that we live in a progressive era where art is more than simple representation and that its applications can be as varied as hanging art in traditional galleries or using it in animation, live-action movies, or even video-game design. LAAFA's graduates leave with the required skill sets needed to pursue an invigorating and lasting career in the contemporary art world.

"I have been drawing and painting for the majority of my life," says LAAFA graduate Eric Pedersen. "I attended private art schools, public universities, and community colleges. They all taught me their various theories of *what* a painting and drawing is but never taught

me how to do it. It wasn't until I attended LAAFA that I actually learned *how* to draw and paint."

"I came here with no training, and I'm going to leave with the skills and foundation to make it happen," says third-year student Matthew Durante. "This is due to the excellent teachers that have taught here over the course of my three years."

LAAFA offers a three-year B.F.A. program, as well as atelier programs in fine art and entertainment art. Part-time extension classes and workshops are also available.

For more information, visit [www.laafa.org](http://www.laafa.org). For admissions information, email [admissions@laafa.org](mailto:admissions@laafa.org).