

# INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

Introducing Luana Luconi Winner of the United States of America

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Luana Luconi Winner, IAPS/MC, PSA (International Association of Pastel Societies/Master Circle, Signature Member of Pastel Society of America), artist, author, lecturer, judge, and favored instructor, is a founding member of the Portrait Society of America, elected Master Circle member of the International Association of Pastel Societies, Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America, past president and honorary lifetime member of the Pastel Society of North Carolina, a Juried Member of the Portrait Society of Atlanta, North Carolina Ambassador for the Portrait Society of America, and an active member of several other art boards and national art organizations.

She describes her artist's life in this way, "I record history. My job is to record the people and families that have changed the world. It has been my great fortune to have painted CEOs, politicians, military officers, performers, bankers, symphony conductors, judges, scientists, academics, and their families. And when I am done working, I paint still-lives, landscapes, narrative figurative pieces for me."

Painting, drawing, music, science and math were a constant during her formative years growing up in northern Indiana. At an early age, during a transformative visit to the Art Institute in Chicago, she fell in love with the figurative work of the 19th century artists and was convinced that she could do this. Her family's move to Rome, Italy during her years in secondary education gifted her with the opportunity to visit the Renaissance paintings and sculpture she had only studied in books.

Luana attended college in Switzerland, met her husband from the east coast of North Carolina, married in Rome, and moved to Carolina's capital city, Raleigh. This is where she reared a family and developed her career. "It matters not where you are, but how you absorb life around you. Make your life a work of art."

"Pastel is the most natural of creative materials. We instinctively build designs with clear values in black and white. Pastel then provides the shock of brilliance or the whisper of subtle color that we crave. To get the hands dirty as when digging into the soil to grow something organic to feed body is a similar sensation to getting the hands dirty with pastel to grow something to feed our soul."

"Embracing realism in my art through a period in the USA when this style was completely ignored, I continued my specialized art study with master portrait artists, and then returned to Italy to study at the Florence Academy of Art for a brief moment in time."

Luana's awards from national and international exhibitions have included an international Best in Show for Portraits, a Silver Medal from IAPS, a special award for originality in France, and multiple others. Luana has instructed from California to New York, France, Spain, Italy. She was also part of the First Pastel Festival of China at the Ming Art Gallery in Suzhou, China. A portrait was recently purchased for the permanent collection of the Musée du Pastel in France.



'Elizabeth' Pastel - 20 x 16



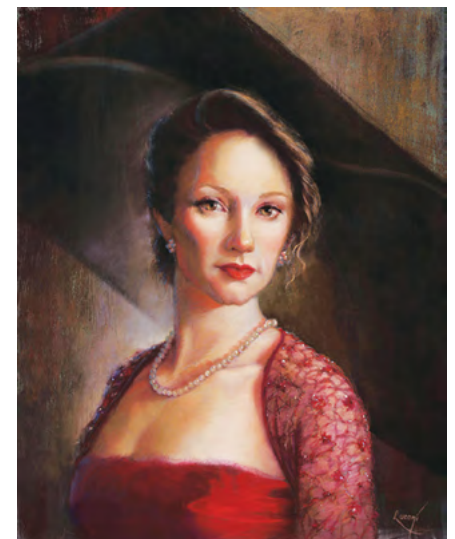
'Acquaviva' Oil - 24 x 18



'The Lemonade Stand' Pastel - 24 x 18



'Turquoise Robe' Pastel - 20 x 16



'The Classical Singer' Pastel - 20 x 16

“Working from life at every opportunity is the answer. Always. But developing technology skills will benefit our record keeping of fleeting moments, whisks of light, or discontinuous activity.” Though not a photographer, Luana uses her snapshots in harmony with her sketches sometimes employing Photoshop to quickly experiment with changes of line, design, hue, value, or composition resulting in efficiency of time, materials, and energy.

“Painting Classic Portraits: Great Faces Step by Step” was published/distributed in English worldwide by F+W Publishers, North Light Books, later was translated into Chinese and distributed throughout Asia. Over the years, she developed four workbooks for students, nine DVDs, and other instructional materials on drawing and painting portraits in various media. Silver Brush sponsors three brush sets in her name, and a triple portrait is featured on the cover of Strathmore Paper drawing pads.

“As I continue to travel for my portrait sittings, exhibits, lectures, and workshops, I encourage artists to learn new techniques, experiment constantly, expand your experiences, and deliberately make time in your busy lives to create. Then go to your painting space, quiet yourself, look inward, and allow the art to flow through the pastel. Use whatever means you must employ to make better art.”



*'Bikes #4, Green' Pastel - 16 x 20*



*Above: Restaurants on Canal in Tong Li Suzhou, China - 18 x 24*



*Above: At the easel - downtown studio*

*'Children of Collodi Gathering' Pastel - 16 x 20*



*'Brigadier General George Walls' Oil - 30 x 24*



*Left: 'Son of a Fisherman' Oil - 42 x 36*

*Right: 'Orange Dinghy' Pastel - 16 x 20*

