

“A classical drawing atelier is a studio program that emphasizes observation, accuracy, and mastery of traditional techniques, providing a solid foundation for all styles of art and the development of personal expression.”



Mara working on a self portrait in oil, 2024

Levin Classical Art & Atelier®

PRESS KIT

Mara Levin ☎ info@MaraLevin.com ☎ (508) 353-7878 ☎ MaraLevinFineArt.com

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“Apple Tree,” Mara Levin, 2019, oil on cradled birch panel.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mara Levin
Email: info@maralevin.com
Phone: (508) 353-7878

Levin Classical Art Atelier Announces New Workshop and Spring Course at Fivesparks in Harvard, MA

Harvard, MA – Levin Classical Art Atelier is pleased to announce two enriching art programs hosted at Fivesparks in Harvard, Massachusetts. These offerings are designed for artists of all levels seeking to enhance their drawing skills through classical techniques.

Mara Levin is an award-winning fine artist with decades of experience teaching students of all ages. She studied classical drawing, painting, and sculpture with master artists at Boston University, where she earned a BFA in Painting. Her work has been shown in fine galleries, and her art is part of many private collections across the United States.

Fivesparks is a community arts collaborative located in the heart of Harvard, MA. It offers a variety of programs and events aimed at fostering creativity and artistic expression within the community. For more information about Fivesparks and other upcoming events, visit www.fivesparks.org.

Workshop: Creating Luminous Portraits on Toned Paper

Date: December 13, 2024
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Fivesparks, 7 Fairbank Street, Harvard, MA 01451
Workshop fee: \$100, which includes a kit with some of the supplies

More information and registration:

<https://www.fivesparks.org/event/creating-luminous-portraits-on-toned-paper/>

Experience a structured, hands-on approach to learning that emphasizes foundational skills and one-on-one guidance. This workshop offers the kind of in-depth, focused training typically found in classical art studios. Instructor Mara Levin will provide live demonstrations and guide participants as they work alongside her. Seats are limited. Visit the website for a list of supplies to bring.



Class: Drawing Lessons by the Green

Dates: March 7, 2025 – May 2, 2025
Time: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Fivesparks, 7 Fairbank Street, Harvard, MA 01451
Tuition: \$250

More information and registration:

<https://www.fivesparks.org/event/drawing-lessons-by-the-green/2025-03-21/>

Come have fun drawing with us at Fivesparks in Harvard's beautiful town center! Enjoy the camaraderie of other drawing enthusiasts in a supportive environment while learning and working at your own pace. In this class, Mara brings a contemporary approach to teaching traditional foundational skills, guiding students in contour line, gesture, blocking in, proportional measurement, anatomy, perspective, and figure and nature drawing. Students are also welcome to pursue personal projects, with frequent demonstrations and individualized support provided to all.

"Vader,"
graphite



It's About the Fundamentals



“Self Portrait after Rembrandt,”
Mara Levin, 1975, oil on pressed board.

*“Drawing is the root of everything,
and the time spent on that is actually all profit.”*

— Vincent Van Gogh, September 5, 1882, *The Hague*

Van Gogh’s commitment to studying European foundational drawing skills and techniques follows a tradition that began in Ancient Greece, and continued through the Renaissance and into modern studio training of the early 20th century.

A recent shift in training away from classical methods has resulted in a decline in basic skills, leaving many artists feeling unprepared for the challenges they face.

Mara received classical training in drawing, painting, and sculpture in college. Today, Mara is part of the contemporary atelier movement, which has been gaining momentum in the United States, France, Italy, and Great Britain.

At Levin Classical Art Atelier, the program of study uses the kinds of tools and techniques used by Leonardo da Vinci, Van Gogh, and Picasso—methods still relied upon by modern masters like Gerhard Richter, David Hockney, and Julie Mehretu, whose mastery of foundational skills inspires bold and innovative expression.

“Mara’s drawing classes offer an exceptionally solid foundation in all the fundamental skills and tools, both atelier “old school,” and modern. Her expertise and teaching experience, along with her talent and enthusiasm, bring her students into an art-based camaraderie of community that enhances each class and inspires the participants.” – Ruth (student)



Mara Levin, 2024

Watch Mara Levin demonstrate classical drawing techniques, at the heart of her teaching, in a short video. This video shows Mara working left to right and using a mahl stick to protect her work. Watch the link.

Scan the QR code below or visit
www.maralevinfineart.com/video/12300



Biography

Mara Levin is an award-winning fine artist, art educator, and graphic designer with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from Boston University. With over four decades of experience, she is known for her mastery of classical techniques, as well as her innovative approach to art education.

Mara's training includes classical drawing, painting, and sculpture, under master artists such as David Aaronson, Nicholas Edmunds, Lloyd Lillie, Congor Metcalf, David Ratner, and Janice Corkin Rudolf. She further honed her skills in art methods and materials, commercial art, and modern studio techniques.

Throughout her career, Mara has exhibited her work in galleries and juried shows across New England, including the Cambridge Art Association, Concord Art Association, and Powers Gallery. She is a juried member of the esteemed Oil Painters of America, an organization that champions foundational training—a value central to her teaching philosophy—and her artwork is part of private collections nationwide.

In addition to her fine art practice, Mara has an extensive teaching portfolio, including positions at Fivesparks in Harvard, MA, Post Road Art Center, and multiple public schools. She offers a comprehensive program emphasizing foundational skills while fostering individual creativity.

Currently, Mara teaches drawing and painting at Levin Classical Art Atelier, where she combines her extensive training with contemporary teaching methods to help empower artists at all stages of their creative journey.

Mara's expertise extends to graphic design and illustration, where she has worked with major clients, creating impactful designs ranging from corporate identities to trade show materials.



“Elaine’s Laundry,” 1977, graphite.

This is an example of a thumbnail drawing, a quick layout for planning larger drawings and paintings. In thumbnails, artists seek to resolve composition and other elements before committing to a larger investment in time and materials.



Selected Teaching Experience

Mara has taught art to students of all ages in various settings, including:

- Fivesparks, Harvard: Drawing
- Post Road Art Center, Marlborough: Drawing, Painting
- Art Studio at the Farm, Bolton: Drawing, Painting
- Public Schools (MA): High school art and after-school programs, including in the Boston Public Schools

Selected Group Exhibitions

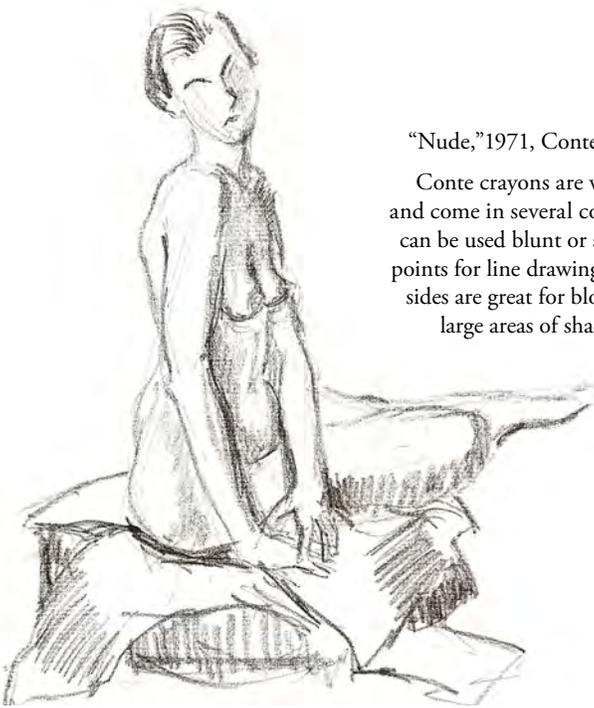
Mara's work has been shown in juried exhibitions and galleries such as:

- Boston University
- Cambridge Art Association
- Concord Art Association
- Nashoba Valley Winery
- Powers Gallery
- Wenniger Graphics, Newbury Street



Graphite illustration for corporate identity of Iron Horse Farm, Sherborn, MA by Mara Levin and Marion Brockert, 2000

Portfolio Drawings



“Nude,” 1971, Conte crayon.

Conte crayons are versatile and come in several colors. They can be used blunt or sanded to points for line drawings, and the sides are great for blocking in large areas of shading.



“Jeanne & Jamaica,” 1997, graphite, portrait commission.

M. Levin '97



“Nude,” 1972, charcoal.

Fun: Cover your paper with charcoal and draw with a kneaded eraser.



“Gaucho Barry,” 2024, charcoal on Denril Vellum.

Vellum is an interesting translucent surface for drawings.

“Rosie,” 1971, graphite.

Rosie modeled for many years at Boston University.



M. Levin '71

Portfolio Paintings

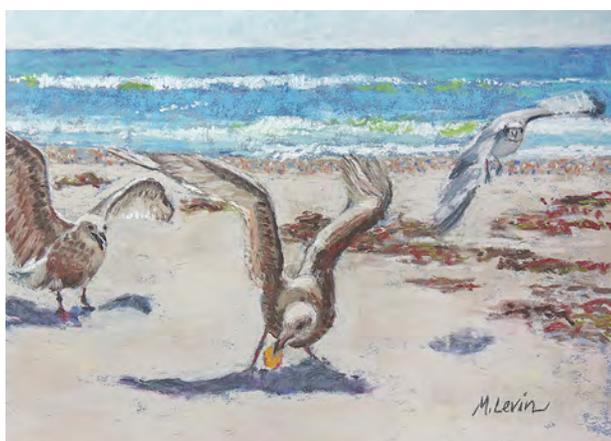


“Diane Peeling Potatoes,” 1987, oil

My friend hired me to copy this painting; I painted her into the scene. She says her five children each claim it to be their family heirloom.



“Pippin and the Bee,” 2019, oil, cat portrait commission.



“The Potato Chip Wars: Ambush,” 2019, pastel.



“The Path Home,” 2018, acrylic.

This painting was my art therapy after an accident.



“The Potato Chip Wars: Skirmish,” 2019, oil.

Teaching Impact

Inspiring growth and creativity in students of all ages through a nurturing and adaptable teaching approach.

- “I think we all benefited enormously from Mara’s solid knowledge base, extensive experience, and indisputable talent. I appreciated the detailed curriculum and supporting documentation and links to further our study on the internet. She juggled addressing our needs as students at different levels with bottomless encouragement, patience, and finesse.” – Ruth Pannell
- “Mara is a wonderful teacher. She provides theory, technique, and advice in a very accessible manner. Her thoughtful critiques help you learn to evaluate your own work, and the skills she teaches will help you to improve and grow your art.” – Christine Latini
- “Mara is wonderful! She goes out of her way to make everyone feel welcome in the class. I feel lucky to have found her and plan to continue in the fall.” – Betty Sprague



A few simple items and a good light source can inspire a beautiful work of art.



Artistic Excellence

Bringing subjects to life with extraordinary insight and a deep connection to their essence.

- “I cannot express the great joy I experience every time I look at the portrait of Chelsea which you drew. You truly captured her essence in one image... It must be this gift of insight which makes your work so special.” – Jennifer Tousignant
- “As I look at the portrait which so adeptly captures Winnie’s personality, I’m reminded of the love and trust that has grown between us... I will keep her portrait, and after she’s gone, I can still look into her eyes that reflect her regal, elegant, trusting, and loving soul.” – Sandy George
- “I still have it in a beautiful frame. I will cherish it forever!!” – Faye Belcastro Silva



Professional Expertise

Delivering innovative design solutions and unmatched client service for over four decades.

- “I had the privilege of working closely with Mara at two Fortune 500 companies. At one, we had a sophisticated Boston-based client who loved working with her. They were delighted with Mara’s responsive, collaborative approach that allowed them to build their creative vision over a series of drafts and various media.” – Patty Hassett
- “Mara provides us with superior work, a fair price, and the utmost in personal attention to the details.” – Steven Zuromski
- “It’s not often you can find a design firm that offers an attitude of customer responsiveness and service—or one that has extraordinary high integrity—or one that offers outstanding state-of-the-art design... [Mara Levin] has it all.” – Ben Neiman



Roll a long narrow piece of paper around a can. Set up a light source. Just for fun, try drawing without any contour lines.

Interested in learning more? Contact Mara Levin to find out more about her programs today.