

# Sculpt the Figure with James Sondow from Saint Petersburg's Repin Academy

*This course will introduce students to the Russian Academic method of conceptualizing and sculpting the human figure. This method relies heavily on composition and construction as well as the anatomical underpinnings of idealized form from antiquity. This approach is part of a living tradition that has passed down through an unbroken chain of generations since the Russian Academy's inception over 250 years ago.*

*The two classes are optimally taken together as sculpting from life will inform how you proceed with your own creations and your compositions will pose questions that working from life will help answer. However, the two classes can also be taken independently.*



A native New Yorker, James was first introduced to figurative drawing in his teens at the Art Students' League and Hunter College High School. After graduating from Oberlin College in 1996, James taught art for the next decade at the Rubin Museum, Saint Ann's School, and various public schools while refining his craft, studying life drawing, painting, and sculpture at Pratt, SVA, and the Art Students' League. In 2003, he began his classical training in the Russian academic method at Bridgeview School of Fine Arts in New York City. Two years of intensive summer study at Russia's premier art academy, the Ilya Repin Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, cemented James' affinity for their thorough program and their strict teaching methodology. Relocating to St. Petersburg from 2007 to 2012, James became the first American accepted to the Repin Institute's sculpture department in over 20 years. After a three-year hiatus, in which he taught sculpture and drawing at the Beaux-Arts Academy in New York and Rome, he returned to the Repin Academy in Russia from 2015-2017 to become the only American to graduate with highest honors and be offered a solo show at the Academy. He has exhibited both drawing and sculpture in New York City and St. Petersburg and received various awards including the Gloria Medal at the National Sculpture Competition held at the New York Academy of Art.

## **Sculpting from life** Tuesdays 2pm-5pm or 6pm- 9pm

\$395 for 6 sessions September 4th - October 9th

Working from the model, students will be guided to see the figure as a clear demarcation of planes that integrate the weight, proportion, gesture, and likeness. This will provide conviction to students' work as they are pushed past simple silhouettes to think three dimensionally and feel how the various anatomical planes flow together and bind a complex set of distinct anatomical structures into the totality that is sculpture.

## **Composition** Thursdays 2pm-5pm or 6pm- 9pm

\$295 for 6 sessions September 6th - October 11th

Students will chose a theme around which to create their own figural composition. After developing their ideas, they will create small sculptural studies inspired by discussions of masterworks and one-on-one critiques from the professor. By working small, they focus on creating a harmonious whole upon which details are integrated. The joy taken in rendering a hand or a knee is not done for its own sake, but must create a focal point or counterbalance to another aspect of the piece. Students will find the large architectonic planes of their figure that guide the viewer's eye from accent to accent, unifying the sculpture. That unity is composition.

Attending **Sculpting From Life** (Tuesday) and **Composition** (Thursday) is \$655 for 12 sessions

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