

Al Gury: Artist, Educator, Author, Community Member

Al Gury is Chair of the Painting Department of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. An artist, educator, and author, Al received his BA in fine arts and humanities from Saint Louis University, a four-year Certificate in Painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), and an MFA from the University of Delaware.

He is a recipient of the Cresson Traveling Fellowship and numerous grants and



awards for painting and arts education, and was designated a master teacher by both The University of the Arts in Philadelphia as well as American Artist Magazine.

Artist

A painter of the figure, landscapes, still lifes and portraits, Al's work is regularly shown by F.A.N. Gallery in Philadelphia. His paintings have also been exhibited at the National Academy of Design in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the National Capitol in Washington D.C., Washington and Lee University, the University of Pennsylvania, and galleries across the country.

Author

Al is the author of three books on the history and techniques of painting and drawing and the use of color: [Alla Prima—A Contemporary Guide to Direct Painting](#), Random House, 2008; [Color—A Guide to Traditions and Practice](#), Random House, 2010; and his most recent work, [Foundations of Drawing](#), Random House, 2017.

He is a contributing editor to [Per Contra](#), an international journal of arts, literature and ideas, and a contributor to [Artists and Illustrators](#) magazine, [American Artist](#) magazine, and a variety of other publications.

Community Member

The moment he arrived in Philadelphia, in 1972, Al Gury took it upon himself to help make the city a better place. He has worked as a homeless outreach volunteer through Old St. Joseph's Church, Philadelphia's oldest Catholic community for several years.

He has also volunteered his time, and was a guest teacher, working with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, the nation's largest public art program. In 1984, Mural Arts was established as part of the Philadelphia anti-graffiti network. Today it engages communities in 50–100 public art and art education projects each year.

One of Al's most unique contributions to his home town was his gift of a painting of "Old Alice" to Philadelphia's historic Christ Church. The daughter of slaves and the church's longest-lived parishioner, Alice spent her 116-year life gathering stories about the city and its people, and became known in her time as an oral historian. But unlike the founding fathers, many of whom are interred at Christ Church, there was no likeness of Alice.

After years of field trips to the church with his painting students, Al decided it was important to rectify that situation, and in 2009 he provided the church with his vision of what such a proud Philadelphian might have looked like. His painting is now proudly displayed by the Church as in the telling of its long and storied history.

But more than anything else, Al has dedicated himself to helping PAWS, the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society. Over the past 10 years Al has fostered over 800 kittens and cats, keeping them for a few months until they can be adopted out. He works especially with sick animals, providing nursing care. According to a recent profile on NPR Affiliate WHYY, "It's said that you cannot arrive as an artist in Philadelphia until you have one of Al Gury's cats."

In 2015, Al was named PAWS's first "Volunteer of the Year" as the organization formally rededicated its kitten maternity ward in his name.

Available Classes

Studio Courses

- Anatomy
- Cast Drawing
- Ceramics
- Color Theory
- Drawing-Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced
- Figure Drawing
- Figure Painting
- Gross Anatomy lectures
- Historic Painting Methods and Techniques
- Interiors Drawing
- Introduction to Studio Methods
- Painting-Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced
- Pastel
- Portrait Painting
- Sculpture
- Still-life Painting
- Studio Anatomy
- Two and Three Dimensional Design
- Watercolor

Art History, Seminars, and Other Topics

- Artist as Educator
- Senior Thesis seminars
- Graduate Teaching seminars
- American Art and Multiculturalism
- Western Art History Surveys, I and II
- Renaissance Art History
- Twentieth Century Art History
- American Art History
- Impressionism
- Visual Communication
- The History of Color
- Religious Imagery in Art
- The Figure in Art
- The History of Classic Painting Methods

Workshops, Lectures & Demonstrations

Color: It's History and Practice for Painting

- Oil
- Watercolor
- Pastel
- History, Techniques of the masters, Master copies
- Materials
- Theories
- Studio and Plein Air practices

Portraiture

- Getting a likeness
- History and techniques
- Anatomy
- Styles of portraits and portrait drawing

Figure

- Figure structure in painting
- Figure color
- History of the figure in painting
- Responsive approaches to the figure
- Figure painting from life

Anatomy

- Comprehensive approaches to learning figure construction and anatomy
- Anatomy made usable and understandable
- Complete anatomy demonstrations

Drawing and Life Drawing

- History, approaches and materials
- Responsive life drawing
- Drawing in color

Still Life

- Flower painting, color and practice

Special Topics for Educators

- Art across the curriculum
- Art in the classroom curriculum
- Teaching the craft of painting and drawing
- Teaching strategies and writing about art

Contact

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Resume

[http://www.algury.com/downloads/Al Gury Resume.pdf](http://www.algury.com/downloads/Al%20Gury%20Resume.pdf)

Sample Work

[http://www.algury.com/downloads/Al Gury Samples.pdf](http://www.algury.com/downloads/Al%20Gury%20Samples.pdf)