



## Creative Printmaking in Florence

Robin Ezra & Annie Day - Safer Printmaking Workshops at Il Bisonte since 2010

With reasonable airfares to Europe at the moment consider taking yourself on the holiday of a lifetime where you can indulge your passions, art, wonderful food and shopping. All this in Spring when the weather is at it's most pleasant and just perfect for comfortable sightseeing and walking in this beautiful city.



### On a typical day.....

We make our way along the banks of the Arno to the local coffee shop in San Nicolo around 9 for Café Latte and a little brioche and while watching the passing parade we meet some of the students enjoying their Italian breakfast.

Work begins at 10am in the inspiring studio and class breaks around 12.30 for lunch. We walk to a small "forno" three minutes away or a trattoria in the crypt of S Niccolo where Michelangelo once studied anatomy . On the way we see the old priest from San Niccolo, he still rides his bike and a mororbike and loves to stop and say hello, he was a Partisan in the war and a great friend of another staunch Partisan Maria Luigia Guiata who had the vision to start Il Bisonte. Every year we are greeted at the "forno" and choose our amazing vegetables and main dishes – to find our table we pass the pristine kitchen with staff busy creating their excellent sweet and savoury Florentine dishes. Back in the studio we complete our day's work.





At 4pm we pack up and repair to the bar on the way to our apartment, the barman has visited Australia and always welcomes us warmly, we sip a Prosecco and review the day before leaving - hungry for an evening meal at our local Trattoria or another short walk to dine at the amazing Paoli with medieval inspired fresco walls and ceilings.



Then it's time for a stroll - perhaps to Piazza della Signoria to see the buskers and admire the sculptures in the Loggia. Sometimes we walk to The Ponte Vecchio and watch the sunset. Occasionally we venture up to Piazzale Michelangelo and take in the magnificent view or perhaps to Piazza della Repubblica to listen to the music and linger deciding which Gelato to choose for our treat. Back at the apartment we make plans to visit the incredible San Ambrogio market early next morning after a well earned good night's sleep.



## About the course...

In the Florence workshop prepare to learn the secrets of creating your own beautiful Waterless Lithographs. Also included in the workshop is another of our specialties, aluminium etching – a very rewarding printmaking technique. Be delighted as copper sulphate weaves it's magic on the aluminium plate creating rich 'aquatint like' tones during the etching process. We will be using brand new safer materials to achieve desirable effects.

Our workshop is held in the famous Il Bisonte Studio located in San Niccolo area of the Florence historic centre. Many well known artists including Picasso and Moore have produced prints at Il Bisonte. We keep the class small so there is plenty of individual attention. Because this is a hands-on workshop expect to be taking home lots of lovely prints and an artist book with a print from all the participants as a lasting memento.

We have been holding our Creative Printmaking workshops at Il Bisonte in Florence annually since 2010.



Views in and around the beautiful studio at Il Bisonte. The studio once housed the stables of the Palazzo Serristori on the banks of the Arno. Photos Kathie Atkinson





Jim Josephson's aluminium etchings of stormy skies over the Tuscan landscape, class of 2012

## About living in Florence...

Think about renting an apartment in Florence for a month – a month costs just a little more than two weeks rental for all the extra days. You will have plenty of time either side of classes to explore the many treasures in Florence.

Train travel in Italy is very convenient, fast and reliable; you can even purchase the tickets from your travel agent before you leave home. Venice is just a couple of hours away on the train.



Florence is renowned for its history. As a centre of medieval European trade and finance and one of the wealthiest cities, Florence is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance. Steep yourself in Florentine history from early Etruscan & Roman roots to the Renaissance with the extraordinary flourishing of the arts, the Medici family, many legendary artists and other notables like Savonarola. Their traces are still visible today – Savonarola's extravagant robes are on display at S Marco. All that history you read at school actually comes to life in Florence and the famous works of art are all there for you to see.



These photos were taken by Kathie Atkinson at Il Bisonte during the 2010 Florence workshop