

Frequently Asked Questions for Jerry's Workshops:

How should we communicate with you?

Email is the way I communicate with all my workshop participants. We use: jerry@jerrymclaughlinart.com or jerrymclaughlinart@gmail.com. Please make sure you add those to your address book so communications do not go to the SPAM folder. I have had some previous issues with @comcast.net email addresses. If you have Comcast, please make sure it is accepting gmail addresses without issue.

What about COVID-19?

COVID-19 has proved to be entirely unpredictable in its behavior and its effect on our society. Here are the CURRENT COVID-19 guidelines we will follow:

- All participants must provide documentation of a completed, FDA approved vaccination. (I have both recovered from COVID infection and completed my vaccination series with Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.)
- All participants must sign a waiver stating they understand any risks associated with travel/illness and that they understand and accept any insurance or other medical payment requirements while traveling.
- If, based on the structure, location, and size of the workshop, guidelines recommend wearing masks at the time of the workshop, masks will be required. Masks are of course always optional, even if not required.
- Estudio Paloma is a large, open studio with high ceilings and good air circulation. Weather usually permits us to keep the doors/windows open all day.

What if I get sick in San Miguel?

San Miguel has a large retiree immigrant community from both the US and Canada. Medical Services are easily accessible, including house-calls. Several local public and private hospitals provide extensive services including Emergency Care, Intensive Care and Respiratory Units

- MAC Hospital - <https://hospitalesmac.com/unidadmedica/snmiguel.html>
- Hospital Joya - <https://hospitaljoya.com/hospital-joya-smda/>

I have used services at both hospitals and found them to be clean, professional, and very service oriented. There are also higher level/larger hospitals in Queretaro and Celaya, should you need more specialized care.

Please remember that Medicare does NOT cover international travel, and neither do some private insurance plans. I encourage you to purchase travel insurance both for emergency cancellation concerns, as well as medical coverage.

When/how do we pay the balance of the workshop fee?

To respect those waiting for a spot and to allow adequate time for travel and workshop arrangements, you must pay your balance at least 90-days before the workshop. I take all major credit cards, US checks, and cash. **Late balance payments incur a late fee of \$200.** If you do not complete your balance payment by 90 days prior to the workshop, your spot will be made available to another individual until your payment is completed. I generally remind participants a week or so before the balance payment is due. **However, 'not receiving' a reminder does NOT free you from completing your payment on time. So, please mark your calendar for the date your final payment is due.**

If I cannot attend the workshop, is the registration fee refundable?

The registration fee is used to reserve a spot for you in the workshop and to cover administrative costs, studio rental, supplies, shipping, and insurance. **UNLESS THE WORKSHOP IS CANCELLED, NO REFUNDS ARE GIVEN. FOR THIS SPECIFIC REASON I RECOMMEND YOU PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE THAT COVERS ANY COSTS OF CANCELLATION, TRAVEL, LODGING, ETC.**

However, up until the balance payment due date, if you withdraw from the workshop you are free to 'sell' your spot to another individual that meets any workshop criteria (e.g. advanced or special topic workshop). If you sell your spot, you are responsible for completing payment for the workshop to me in full. If you do NOT complete the balance payment to me on time, you forfeit your deposit and spot in the workshop. Once you complete your payment to me, you then collect any money owed to you by your buyer. Simply let me know their contact information so that I can contact the artist to discuss the workshop. If you 'sell' your spot, you are responsible for paying me the full price of the workshop first, and all remaining financial transactions are between you and the other individual. If you have not paid me the full amount of the workshop, you are not eligible to sell your spot to someone else. If you prefer to avoid the hassle of 'selling' your spot, let me know, and I will assume responsibility and try to find another participant. However, if the spot fills, I keep your deposit as a fee for handling this transaction. If I cannot find a replacement, you forfeit your payments.

Do you provide supplies?

To make travel and logistics easier for you, the following materials are provided at no additional cost:

- 32 oz cold wax medium
- Odorless mineral spirits
- 12 sheets Arches oil paper
- Painting surfaces (multimedia artboard)

- 1 Roll Paper towels
- Waxed, non-stick, and a variety of other papers
- Texture materials, PanPastels, dry pigments, sand
- Palette paper
- Inks and other water-soluble media
- and more!

Our SP CREATE squeegees, SP CREATE brayers, and square-tipped palette knives may be available for purchase. However, I cannot assure that there will be enough for everyone. If you want to be assured of the proper tools, please purchase them prior to your trip.

Information on traveling with art materials is included in a link on the workshop info page.

Can I ship my materials to you?

No. Please do not ask me about this. Receiving art supplies is viewed as importation of goods, and I do not have an import license.

Is there a materials fee?

No.

How do I get to/from the studio?

If you are staying in San Miguel, Blanca Garcia, owner of Estudio Paloma, will arrange for you to be transported to and from the studio each day. This service is included in the cost of the workshop. So that we can be accurate about pickup, we will need your local lodging address and a phone number (either at the hotel/Airbnb, or your cell phone with international service). I will email a Google Sheet for you to provide this information.

Where should I stay?

In order to take advantage of the pickup and drop off service included with the workshop, I recommend you stay in San Miguel.

For the full San Miguel experience, try to stay close to the Jardin Allende/Parroquia, the main square in the center of town. The oldest area is Centro - look for lodging there and in the surrounding streets.

Because people have different budgets and different tastes in the kinds of places they like to stay, I generally do not recommend any particular lodging. Online resources for hotels (orbitz.com, exedia.com, hotels.com, etc.) and Airbnb are good places to look. If there is lodging associated with the workshop or if there are any discounts being offered through local resources, I will let you know.

If you do want to stay within walking distance of the workshop, Hotel Casa Primavera, Hacienda San Patricio, or one of the Airbnb's close is an option. However, I would encourage you to take advantage of the food and culture of San Miguel by staying in the city center.

How do I travel with my materials?

Here's a link from Gamblin about traveling with art supplies:

<https://www.gamblincolors.com/tips-for-traveling-with-artists-materials/>

How should I get there and how do I get around?

San Miguel is located about 1 – 1.5 hours from both Leon (BJX) and Querétaro (QRO) airports. You can either arrange a private car to bring you to San Miguel or simply use one of the many taxis located just outside the airport(s). There is a company that provides transport to/from the airports, [BajioGo](#). I also have a private driver that is available for airport transport. Although you can rent a car, driving and parking in San Miguel is challenging.

The town is entirely walkable. Taxis are everywhere, and they generally cost 60–80 pesos (\$3-4 USD) regardless of destination. It's easy to flag taxis, or you can call and have one meet you at a specific location. Ask the driver before getting in the car how much the ride will be to your location. Taxis do not accept credit cards and prefer coins or small bills. They will often accept US dollars.

Uber exists in San Miguel and has been more reliable over time. If you feel more comfortable with a private driver, I have some names and phone numbers I can give you of drivers used routinely by people who live in San Miguel.

Noise in San Miguel.

San Miguel's nights are notoriously loud. Dogs barking, music playing, and pre-dawn fireworks to celebrate every birthday, saint's day, wish for good luck, births, deaths, etc. It happens quite often. If noise like this bothers you, bring ear plugs, or better yet, a white noise machine.

What are the hours for the workshop?

We will generally work from 9am – 12pm. Lunch between noon – 1:30pm. Work again between 1:30pm – 4:30pm.

What should I wear?

San Miguel is at an altitude of about 6,500 feet and has a temperate climate. Nights can get chilly, so bring sweaters and light jackets. The days are sunny and can get quite warm. The streets are cobblestone, so wear sturdy shoes. A hat and sunscreen will help protect you from the more intense sun at altitude.

If you feel more tired than usual or have a headache or dizziness, you are probably being affected by the altitude and high desert air. Drink plenty of water, every day. If you feel tired, drink water, and rest until your energy is back.

At the workshop, wear whatever you feel comfortable painting in, and wear comfortable shoes. We will be standing for most of the time. If you have special needs regarding access or seating, please let me know, and I will do my best to accommodate you.

What is the studio like? Where can we eat?

Please note that the studio requires climbing stairs; there is no elevator. If you have special needs regarding access or seating, please let me know, and I will do my best to accommodate you. However, remember, Mexico is NOT the USA, so things like ADA and other laws do not apply here.

Although you are welcome to bring food to the studio, Blanca provides delicious homemade lunch each day, and we usually eat together as a group. Lunch is included in the price of the workshop. It is generally three courses: a soup or salad, main course, and dessert. There is usually wine. Her cooks are attentive to hygiene, so you can eat all the fruits and vegetables and drink the water and ice without concern. If you have food allergies or a special diet, we will collect that information prior to the workshop and do our best to accommodate your needs.

There are not many walkable restaurants close to the studio. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed the lunch and lunch experience eating together at Blanca's.

Water, coffee, tea, fruit, and pastries are available throughout the day.

I have a dog that sometimes spends the day in the studio.

What about money?

Using debit cards is the best way to get pesos. There are ATMs throughout the city, with a small charge for using an American card. Your bank will likely impose a small transaction fee, so it is best to take the maximum amount out at one time.

Will I get any 1 on 1 time with you?

All my workshops include an individual session with each participant. These occur during the workshop day. If you would like to schedule a personal mentoring/coaching session sometime before the start of the workshop to better prepare and make use of your workshop time, I am happy to do so. Email me to arrange this.

Will there be critiques?

My job isn't just to show you techniques, it is to help you become a better artist. And teaching you helps me become a better artist. And although I like to have fun, I view making art as serious and important work. I like to have open, honest, kind, and constructive conversations with other artists. I expect the same from all my participants. I will be honest with my observations about your work. At the end of the workshop, I generally ask people to present several pieces they think are working and allow time for us to discuss them as a group. If you prefer NOT to participate, please let me know.

Will there be lectures, discussions, or activities other than painting during workshop time?

I will let you know during the workshop if there are going to be any special lectures, discussions, etc.

Will there be organized activities outside workshop time?

In order to allow individuals to recover from the intensity of workshops and spend some solitary time, I do not generally schedule any outside activities. However, the group or members of the group are free to do so.

There is a pre-workshop meet and greet the evening before the workshop begins. Everyone is invited (including friends and significant others), but there are no expectations. If you prefer to rest or do some other activity, that is entirely fine with me. Participants are responsible for payment of any food/drinks consumed at the meet and greet.

I understand you do artist coaching/mentoring?

Yes, I do artist mentoring and coaching specifically for people working with cold wax medium. If after the workshop, you would like a follow up session or group of sessions to consolidate your learning or to tackle issues related to your art practice, I am happy to schedule time to work together (<https://www.squeegeeepress.com/coaching-mentoring/>).

Is there any follow up to the workshop?

I usually follow up my workshops with an anonymous survey offering participants the opportunity to comment on their experience. I take these comments seriously and use them to improve future workshops.

More questions?

Email me at jerry@jerrymclaughlinart.com