

Figurative artist returns to Warkworth

By Sue Dickens

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News - Warkworth - Returning to Warkworth, Toronto artist Brian Smith will be hosting a teaching workshop called "Portraiture - Realism to Abstraction".

This will be his fourth visit to Warkworth in less than two years.

He juried the Maple Syrup Festival in 2013, and followed up with two Figurative Abstraction workshops in May and October.

Both workshops were sold out with 20 artists participating in each event.

The workshop is being promoted by the Spirit of the Hills Northumberland Arts Association.

"With only two spots left, the workshop fills up quickly and is sure to be another highlight of the art year for

Spirit of the Hills members," said Diane Arsenault, president of the Spirit of the Hills.

She provided an outline for the course.

"This exciting and in-depth two-day portraiture course will begin with lessons aimed at developing one's ability to capture a likeness of any model. Starting from an understanding of facial landmarks and proportions, you will be challenged to look for and isolate the unique features that identify each of us.

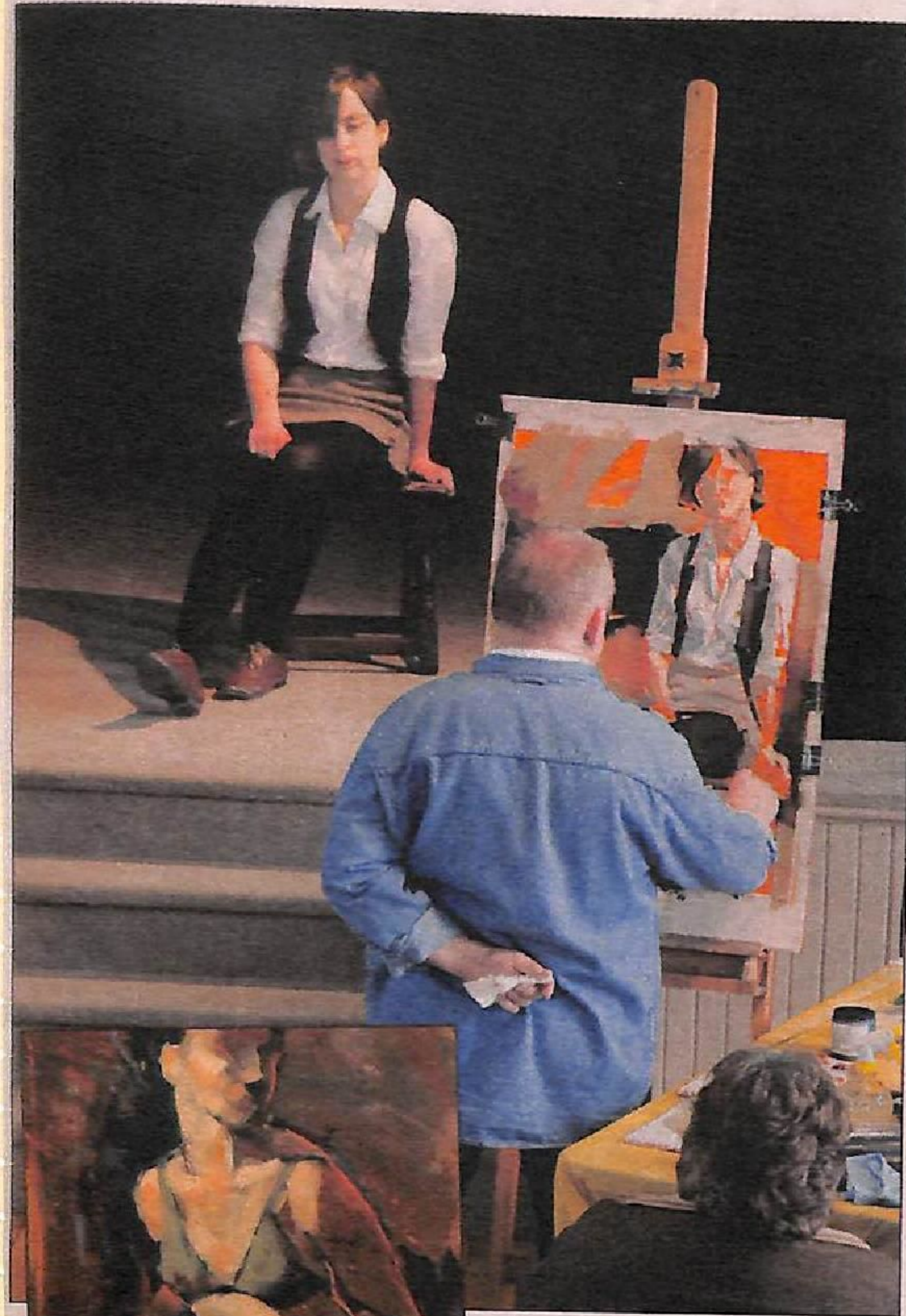
"On day two we will play visual games that will help you think more abstractly about the face and facilitate deconstruction of the image. I believe that understanding the structure of the face and how to draw it is essential to being able to deconstruct it and abstract it."

Works by a variety of artists will be discussed throughout the course.

Smith has taught classes and workshops on life drawing, portraiture and figurative abstraction for more than 20 years. He has been on the faculty of the Ontario College of Art and Design, The Koffler Centre for the Arts, Haliburton School of The Arts, Curry's Art School, Visual Arts Mississauga and Neilson Park Creative Centre and conducts Master Classes in his own studio.

The Portraiture Workshop takes place on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts.

To download the registration form or for more information go to: <http://spiritofthehills.org/art-courses>



Toronto artist Brian Smith displayed his abilities in abstracting the figure using a limited palette of acrylics and soft chalk pastels while painting the image of Port Hope model and artist Maia Desjardins at a free demonstration hosted in Warkworth last March by Spirit of the Hills Northumberland Arts Association. Photo: Tom Groot

Left: Figurative painting, "Over the Shoulder" by Brian Smith. Photo: Submitted