

My experience at Nerdrum School

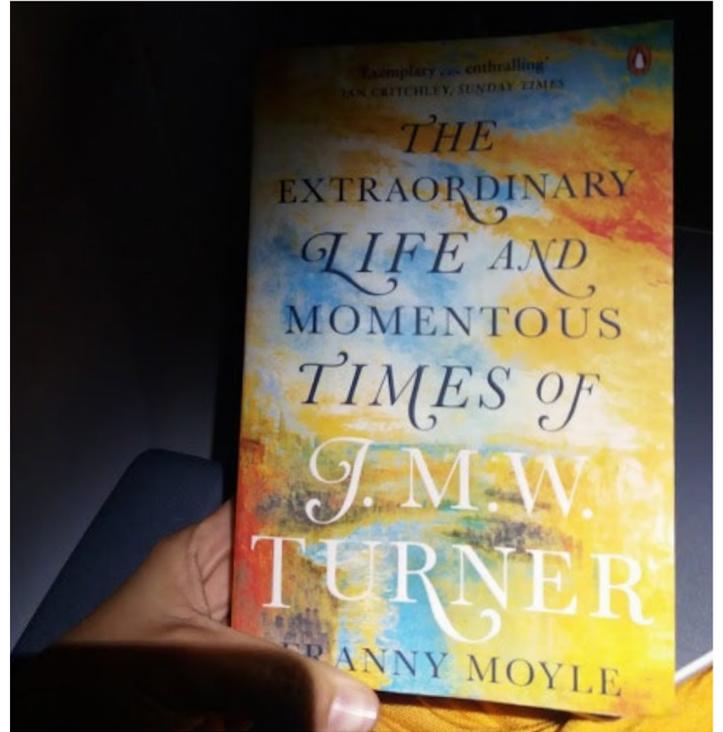
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As I sat next to Turner on the plane I knew that the adventure had begun in the best way.

Being able to study in Nerdrum School was a great distant dream. Slowly this dream was getting closer and closer to reality. Thanks to all those who supported me, the residence with the painter Sebastián Salvo and my dear Argentinian painting teacher Roberto Pedro Gatti.

Thanks to Odd Nerdrum and his family, who generously open their doors to make this possible.

For all of those who would like to apply for the school, I will tell you more about my experience and what I was doing during these months.



Book that I borrowed from the woman who was sitting next to me, talked to me almost the entire flight duration from Buenos Aires to Copenhagen.



Student's studio, Memorosa (Norway).

A good ground

According Odd Nerdrum, the most important thing you can learn in Nerdrum School is preparing the canvas and philosophy.

He arrived to this recipe after many tests and failings, including the ruining of paintings that then he decided to remake.

Learning to do this priming was like learning to cook the most difficult cake. We had to observe a lot, try, ruin fabrics, feel the ideal consistency, the sense and rhythm of the spatula, and try again... until we succeeded, and in the end it was so easy!

Philosophy challenges us and directs our movement in doing. Many times we use words and repeat phrases that we believe to be our own. Without knowing where they come from and without thinking what effect they are having on our work and our culture.

Odd Nerdrum quotes and compares two philosophers that still influence us today: Aristotle (mastery is achievable with effort and work) and Kant (genius artist is born). His way of working and the Kitsch concept are grounded in Aristotle's philosophy.

As an introduction before reading Aristotle (Poetics) and Kant (Critique of pure reason) you can start with: <http://worldwidekitsch.com/kitsch/philosophy/>.



A good priming makes painting easier and also makes the piece more durable.



Coffe table in the student's studio.

Drawing nights

Certain nights, one of the students or a visit would be a model. The meeting time was nine o'clock in the evening, we would bring paper and pencil to make a portrait of the model. "This is a competition" Odd announced. The music of "Interstellar" gave the idea of the mix of feelings of adrenaline and drama at that moments.

During these meetings I learned to find the balance between being alert, and at the same time relaxed, like an archer about to throw the arrow. When the notebooks were then laying on the floor, most of people's eyes would go first to one of the drawings. Comparison would serve to recognize which of them works better and why. I saw my weakness and strengths and made light on what I need to improve.

The importance of breaks

Several times I have tried to work "X" number of hours a day, forcing myself to don't take a break, as if that would guarantee a better result of my work. But finding and respecting one's own rhythm is the best we can do for ourselves and our work.

A walk, swimming in the sea, a talk... is during these times when we usually find new ideas or solutions. But above all I discovered the enormous happiness of a surprise cake in the middle of the day, the infinite gratitude towards the one who made it and the warmth of sharing the moment with the others. In my life I have not eaten as many sweet cakes as in these three months, and now this ritual got into my heart I do not think I'll stop.



Drawing that Nerdrum did when was my turn to modelling.

As a model, when I was posing I learned from experience that if the painter was good in directing the gesture he/she wanted me to do, this will influence my mood and after a while I could begin to feel nostalgic, strong, helpless. And when you draw or paint with a living model there is a feedback, a link that can be seen in your work.

To share and learn with other students

I start my days talking about painting, while having breakfast. Writing down names and data in my notebook; sharing what we discovered the day before. The night before I left, they made a goodbye dinner with pizzas, a gift and a card full of good wishes. I am grateful and lucky, to have had the opportunity to met talented painters and incredible people.



Exchanging time of posing, having fun and learning a lot with the painter Sandra Kuck.

Do what you love

About my experience with Odd Nerdrum I have a thousand anecdotes that I will remember deeply and a thousand phrases that I will continue to elaborate and think about it for much longer. My favourite one is this: “Do what you love”.

Once a former student began to paint a large format painting. The composition was full of characters, and elements but it didn't make any sense. Then Odd Nerdrum asked: “What do you love the most?”. “To paint small nature studies”, replied the student. “Then that's what you have to do and you will do a masterpiece”, Odd added.

It only makes sense to do what we love to do, and do whatever we are doing with love. Odd Nerdrum is a living example of this idea... with love, he works everyday on his paintings. Concerned about his students and his family as well. With deep love, he looks at the paintings of Titian, Rembrandt, Munch and Hertevig.

And before I left, as if finishing the same as at the beginning, also Turner's book.



J. M. W. Turner, The Fighting Temeraire, 1839, Oil on canvas, 91 cm × 122 cm.

September 2018.

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