



Workshop with  
**STUART SHILS**  
SAN DIEGO  
SPRING 2011

## “The Structure of the Visual Moment” a 3-day outdoor painting intensive

Painting Perceptions presents an intensive 3-day workshop with Stuart Shils in San Diego, April 28th - May 1, 2011. The workshop begins with a talk jointly sponsored with the San Diego Art Institute's Professional Artist Lecture Series. This talk and digital slide presentation is open to the public and also is the orientation to the workshop which follows over the next three days.

**3 DAY WORKSHOP**  
**April 28th - May 1, 2011**

**Fee: \$850.00**

The workshop location will be in San Diego's Balboa Park  
For registration or more informations contact Larry Groff  
619-741-2114  
larry@paintingperceptions.com

**“The Perceptual Moment:  
The Nature of Perception and The Perception of Nature”**  
Slide Presentation and Lecture by Stuart Shils

April 28 2011 6:30 PM *Slide talk is open to the public without charge*  
this talk is part of the San Diego Art Institute's Professional Artist Lecture Series

**San Diego Art Institute, Museum of the Living Artist**

1439 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101

Located in the House of Charm (Balboa Park)

**Stuart Shils**, a Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts alumnus and faculty member, has painted the landscape for over 25 years. His work has been presented in solo shows in Philadelphia, New York, Tel Aviv, Boston, San Francisco and Cork, Ireland. He has shown with major galleries such as the Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects, NYC, Tibor de Nagy, NYC, Davis and Langdale, NYC, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco

Critical review and commentary has appeared in the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Art in America, the New Yorker, American Artist and numerous other publications.

Grants and awards include an Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and an Academy Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. An annual visiting critic at the Vermont Studio Center, Shils teaches painting across the country and abroad.

More information can be found on his website at  
<http://www.stuartshils.com>

A comprehensive interview with him can be read online at  
[Painting Perceptions.com](http://PaintingPerceptions.com)







Stuart Shils slide presentation and lecture examines cover the importance of structure to painting, drawing and photography. Structure is essential to the artist and an understanding of this aspect of how we perceive artwork will enhance our ability to appreciate and evaluate art in general. As he further explains;

"... basically we are trying to get into the painter's head, to see how the painter thinks analytically and graphically. Why certain decisions are made and how they are made? With regard to looking out at nature, what we look at and how? How do we compose, how to we focus our glance, how do we deal with all the information absorbed in the process of observation do we edit, suppress, enhance?"

"I don't want to begin the class with my work, it's irrelevant, the point is not to teach anyone how I make paintings. so we look at the work of living and dead masters and try to understand why they did what they did. This includes a serious look at abstract painting, I don't differentiate between figuration and abstraction, as Oscar Wilde said, there are only two kinds of painting, good and bad."

During these three days we'll focus on cultivating perceptual discrimination and visual clarity by engaging in close, critical looking out at nature and the relation of that to constructing a drawing or painting. We're asking ourselves exactly what we are seeing, how we are seeing, and then what to make of it on paper, panel or canvas.

In the tradition of alla prima or "first strike", emphasis will be placed on very direct (but not sloppy) work, focusing on:

- 1) The perceptual process in front of nature: what do we see and how do we see it;
- 2) The editorial response that follows in the head of the painter: how to make sense of what is there;
- 3) Most importantly, on shaking up and/or questioning what is meant by "finish". We are more concerned here with perceptual understanding, the nature of response and what it all means on the painted/drawn surface than with making "pretty pictures".

Stuart Shils workshops are very popular and spaces fill quickly. It is recommended to reserve your place by placing your deposit for registration early. 50% deposit requested now and rest due by the start of the workshop. Full refunds possible up to 30 days prior to start of the workshop and also if the space is filled.

Hotel and travel recommendations specific to this workshop will be provided upon request. Contact Larry Groff at 619-741-2114 or [larry@paintingperceptions.com](mailto:larry@paintingperceptions.com) for more info.



*San Diego workshop organized by Larry Groff and PaintingPerceptions.com*