

# JULIE KIRK

## *Visual Arts Workshops*

### MEET THE ARTIST:

Chalk artist **Julie Kirk** has a strong background in illustration, painting and design. She attended both Saddleback College and Palomar College before enrolling in the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts. While there, she was the recipient of the Art Center Illustration Merit Scholarship. Currently, she is working on her Master of Fine Arts at CSU Fullerton.

Since 1992, Julie has exhibited her work in many juried shows and continues to be a featured artist at street painting venues such as “I Giovani dell’Arte,” Italian Street Painting Festivals in San Rafael, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, and “Fun with Chalk” in Mission Viejo. For commissioned pieces, she works individually or as lead artist of a group of three to five artists. The pieces may be a combination of copies of works by well-known masters or her own designs. In addition to chalk art, she has created a number of sculptures, graphic works and paintings.



### ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Ms. Kirk’s workshops are creative, educational and fun. She introduces students to Greco-Roman Classical historical art through the development and completion of Italian street paintings. The first session begins with slides, featuring examples of Egyptian and Mesopotamian art, Greek and Roman architecture, and artwork from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. She follows this with a discussion of the history of street painting and examples of her own work. The demonstration portions of the lessons include information which is mathematically and scientifically oriented, such as the methods for figuring out measurements for “gridding up” the design, and the use of pigments and binders in pastels as well as their chemical properties. Students also discuss the ways that light and color enhance or detract from certain colors.

Then the students select art that they would like to complete as a street painting and begin to transfer it to the ground. Depending on the length and number of sessions, students will either copy the work of great masters, develop original work or produce a combination of both approaches. Each participating classroom will be responsible for a separate painting. The final lesson in a series will be a daylong, street painting festival in which the various classes will work on and complete their street paintings. This experience is a team building effort that ends with a sense of pride and accomplishment for all involved.

### **BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:**

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Review students' ideas about art, underscoring the idea that art is both personal and universal, and that everyone's ideas will be both different and related. Ask questions, such as, have they ever drawn with chalk (either on the sidewalk or on paper)? If so, what did they create?
- Ask whether students have ever been to a festival where street painting was done. If so, what were their impressions? What kind of work was created?
- Have the requested supplies ready before the artist arrives.
- Have student desks or work surfaces cleared.

### **AFTER THE WORKSHOP:**

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn about art? What did they learn about themselves? What did they learn about the history of street painting?
- Repeat some of the art projects, using the strategies and steps presented, focusing on a new theme, design, size or surface.