

# Easter in Venice

with Petra Gartner, 2–6 April 2010

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Venice is an ideal location for a cultural experience and the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice is the ideal place to study. Every Easter for the past three years a cultural weekend has been organized at the school with an emphasis on calligraphy and printing.

In 2010 the school invited Petra Gartner, who had also been present in 2009 as a student. She had delighted everyone with her enthusiasm and charm and impressed us with her calligraphy skills. We decided on a simple humanistic hand that could also be developed individually as a cursive hand, and the theme was «Love Letters» and «Aphrodisiac Recipes».

There were beginners as well as more advanced students, so Petra was kept busy following each person individually, to ensure that they moved forward smoothly and steadily, but not beyond their capabilities.

Friday afternoon Petra presented her course, a short background on the humanist hand, and samples of work she has done. Saturday was dedicated to writing, practising and creating. In the late afternoon a demonstration of monotype printing was given by Shirley Greer as the technique chosen to accompany the calligraphy.

Sunday morning was for visiting Venice or working in class and during the afternoon, separate groups did monotype printing while Petra continued to work with the rest. The goal was to be able to combine the two into finished pieces or books. This was accomplished on Monday, when everything started to come together. Monday afternoon we had a exhibit of everyone's work and the amount done in such a short time was amazing, with much thanks to Petra.

Tuesday was spent visiting the Library of the Correr Museum, one of Venice's most important seats of antique books collections, and the Museum of the Querini Stampalia, created by the last descentment of one of Venice's most important aristocratic families.

Petra has promised to return again next year, again as a student, and I personally look forward to having her here.



*Kathryn Shank Frate*

*Photos: Kathy Frate, Shirley Greer, Petra Gartner*