



Alena Gastaldi

Born 1984, Kostroma, Russia

Lives and works in Luxembourg, Luxembourg City

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BIO

Alena Gastaldi is a Russian-born artist based in Luxembourg. She works across drawing, painting, and printmaking, with a practice rooted in plein air observation and figurative work.

Her background in architecture, restoration of architectural heritage, and narrative-driven interior design informs her understanding of space as shaped by human presence, memory, and use. As part of a conceptual design team, she developed narrative-driven interior concepts for international clients, working across architecture, storytelling, and collaboration with artists. This experience continues to inform her approach to space as a constructed and meaning-bearing environment. Academic training in drawing, painting, sculpture, and composition formed a significant part of her six-year architectural studies in Kostroma, Russia, and continues to underpin her work.

She has taught sketching as a visiting lecturer at the British Higher School of Art and Design in Moscow and has led workshops internationally, focusing on observational drawing and painting on location.

Since becoming a full-time artist in 2022, she has continued her training through focused independent study. She spent a year studying a design-driven approach to painting with the watercolour artist Thomas M. Schaller and is currently a regular student at Studio Escalier in France, where she studies figure painting under Nicole Michelle Tully and Tobias M. Hall. She is also studying gravure at Atelier Empreinte in Luxembourg.

Her work is regularly exhibited. In 2026, she received a Mention and the Sennelier Prize at Art Capital, Paris, where she exhibited with the Salon des Artistes Français. She regularly participates in plein air competitions in Ireland, where her work has been recognised by juries and peers.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My background is rooted in architecture, restoration of architectural heritage, and narrative-driven interior design. These disciplines inform my understanding of space as something shaped not only by structure, but by human presence, memory, and use.

My experience in interior design has been particularly formative, as I approach the notion of the “interior” not only as a physical space, but as something closely tied to internal processes - our attitudes, sensibilities, and the ways in which we shape and respond to our environment. This perspective continues to influence how I observe and interpret spaces, as well as how I understand the relationship between identity and place.

I have built my practice around working on location, using plein air painting as a way of observing and engaging directly with the environments and communities I depict. Rooted in the rigorous tradition of Russian academic training, the craft of painting has always been central to my work. Over time, however, the emphasis has shifted - from technical execution towards the narratives embedded within the scenes I observe.

My current artistic research explores how identity and meaning are constructed within a place through both presence and absence. Working directly from observation, I focus on both the visible and the implied - scenes of everyday life, as well as fragments, objects, and interiors that suggest human presence indirectly.

This includes direct portraits of individuals and groups, alongside what I refer to as “indirect portraits” - accidental still lifes formed by the objects people leave behind. These traces often reveal quieter, less mediated aspects of identity.

I develop many of these observations further in the studio, where the work moves between direct observation and interpretation, and where presence is often inferred rather than shown. My visual language is shaped by the technical discipline of Russian academic training, as well as years spent living and working in Southeast Asia, which influenced my approach to composition, colour, light, and atmosphere. An ongoing interest in structure and spatial relationships continues to inform my work.

My recent work reflects a growing focus on reduction and clarity, both in visual language and process. By limiting palette, materials, and detail, I aim to distil observed reality into its essential elements.

I am increasingly incorporating printmaking and drawing as expanded approaches to image-making. These processes introduce a slower, more analytical dimension, requiring translation of observed scenes into line, tone, and structure. Drawing on techniques related to my architectural training - such as black and white graphic work, ink, and stencilling - I rework and simplify images to concentrate their meaning.

Moving between immediacy and reflection, my practice continues to evolve towards a more distilled and focused way of seeing, where presence can be conveyed through minimal means.

CV

ASSOCIATIONS:

Professional Member of the Association des Artistes Plasticiens du Luxembourg (AAPL)

AWARDS

February 2026, **Prix Sennelier**. Art Capital Paris, Salon des Artistes Français, Paris, France

February 2026, **Mention**. Art Capital Paris, Salon des Artistes Français, Paris, France

June 2025, 1st Prize. Dublin Plein Air festival, Ireland, Dublin

June 2025, Artist's Choice. Dublin Plein Air festival, Ireland, Dublin

June 2025, 2nd place, Quick Draw competition. Dublin Plein Air festival, Ireland, Dublin

July 2024, Artist's Choice Award. Art In The Open plein air event, Ireland, Wexford

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS, RESIDENCIES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

12 Apr 2026 - 31 May 2026 Solo Exhibition. ZithaKlinik, Luxembourg

27 Feb 2026 - 08 Mar 2026 Solo Exhibition. Maison Schauwenburg, Bertrange, Luxembourg (at the invitation by the commune)

Feb 2026 - Art fair Art Capital, Salon des Artistes Français. Grand Palais, Paris, France

July 2025 - Group exhibition and competition, Art In The Open. Ireland, Wexford.

June 2025 - Dublin Plein Air festival and competition. Ireland, Dublin.

April 2025 - Group exhibition - art fair, Art'Lënster. Luxembourg, Junglingster, Centre Polyvalent Gaston Stein

Nov 2024 - Group exhibition, Chasing Light: Still Lives. Luxembourg city, Subtile Gallery

July 2024 - Group exhibition, Art In The Open Plein Air festival. Ireland, Wexford.

Mar 2024 - Solo exhibition, "Gratefully, Yours". Singapore, Drawing ETC Gallery and creative space

Nov 2023-Jan 2024 - Art residence, [PlayPan.co](https://playpan.co). Singapore, Peace Centre

Nov 2023 - Group Exhibition, "Strictly Singapore". Singapore, Selegie Art House

2015 - Group exhibition, UALARM art festival, Moscow, Russia

2015 - Group Exhibition, "L'Art D'Ici et D'Ailleurs". Espace Saint-Mengold, Huy, Belgium. Artists from the Eastern Countries, second edition.

WORKS IN GALLERIES

Rosslaire Gallery, Rosslaire, Co Wexford, Ireland

Subtile Gallery, Luxembourg city, Luxembourg

PUBLICATIONS

Exhibition catalogue: Le Salon. Société des Artistes Français, 2026, 236th edition

[L'Essentiel Luxembourg](#), Wednesday 3 June 2025

Female Magazine Singapore, Jan-Feb 2024

"The World of Urban Sketching" by Stephanie Bower, book

Pratique des Arts 162. "Alena Kudriashova : mes carnets de vie", p. 88, April-may 2022

EDUCATION

2013 - Exhibition design and delivery, course, University of the Arts, London, Chelsea college of Arts and Design

2012-2013 - Graduate Diploma, Interior design. University of the Arts, London, Chelsea college of Arts and Design.

2001-2007 - Kostroma State Agricultural Academy. Specialist Diploma in Architecture*

* Academic drawing and painting is an integral part of this 6-year program, comprising of 3-9 hours a week of academic drawing, painting and sculpture classes alongside of continuous manual project execution with ink and watercolour.

SELECTED CONTINUOUS ART EDUCATION:

2026 April - current - Formation interdisciplinaire pour artistes et créatifs, House of Training, Luxembourg

2025 October - current - Atelier Empreinte, cours de gravure. Instructor: Diane Jodes

2026 - January - February - 5 week online course "Colour for Painters", Studio Escalier, Paris. Instructor: Michelle Tully

2025 - September - October, 6 week intensive course in academic figure painting, in Studio Escalier, Argenton campus, France, instructor Tobias M. Hall, *with the bourse of the Ministry of Culture Luxembourg*

2025 - France, 1 week intensive in-person workshop with award winning artists Antonin Passermant and Anastasia Dukhanina (still life and portrait in oil)

2024 - singular plein air oil painting workshops with various well established artists

2023-2024 - Classical Realism studio, Singapore, instructor Clayton Hudnall

2022-2023 - 1 year online education and mentorship with Thomas Schaller, watercolour

2010-2011 Matisse art school, Russia, Saint Petersburg - oil painting with V. Shraga

OTHER STRENGTHS:

- Committed full time artist with a high production rate and consistently high quality output
- Networking skills
- Experience in public speaking, individual and and group workshops
- Strong social media presence (<https://www.instagram.com/alenagastaldi>)
- Languages: fluent English, conversational French B2.1, Russian (native)