

CUENCA expats

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Being an Artist Can Be a Reality

by Keith and Tina Paul - Photographs by Keith Paul

Have you always wanted to be an artist or at least do a painting or drawing? Have you wished you could be one of those people who set up an easel in the park? In Cuenca, you'll find some top-rated artists willing to teach you. This writer came to Cuenca and started lessons. It's amazing to learn the untapped talent you may have. I never thought of myself as someone who had even a small amount of artistic talent, but I quickly discovered that anyone could draw or paint with a little instruction. You would be surprised to learn that with some technical know-how, you, too, can produce something pleasing to the eye.

For \$5 to \$10 an hour, you can receive lessons from many top-rated artists in Cuenca. The more time you spend on the craft each week, the faster you'll produce something you'll be proud of. Each artist has a different way of teaching. Some strongly believe that learning to draw is where you begin, others move right into the paints. The art instructors I know, don't speak much English, but it's not a problem. It's an opportunity to be immersed in Spanish, so you learn quickly, and there is only a handful of must-know words to make a good student. Words like darker, lighter, shade and of course the colors. After a few lessons, you'll find yourself communicating well with regards to your art.

If you're not sure what type of art you want to do, find an instructor that can do multi-disciplines. There are some that will teach your drawing, watercolor, acrylic and oil. You may want to experiment and do something in all to find what you like best. Some instructors will supply you the equipment as part of their fee, or you can buy supplies locally at Juan Marcat. You can get started with inexpensive materials and paints. And if you like it, upgrade later to more professional gear.

The best thing to do is to stop procrastinating and sign up for a lesson. You just may end up with a hobby that you will enjoy for a lifetime.

Alberto Soriano is a Peruvian artist who trained primarily in watercolor but now works mostly in acrylic and oils. He is a skilled and patient instructor. His gallery and studio are located on Hermano Miguel 6-87 and Presidente Cordova

Artist Guido Alvarez has taught architecture at the University of Cuenca for many years and painted as a hobby. His specialty is watercolor painting. He has a gallery and studio for students at 27 de Febrero and Solano in the Tres Puentes Edificio building.



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