

## BELOW

The sequence of photographs shown here document the three-hour oil- and pastel-portrait-painting demonstrations Caporale offered during her workshop in North Salem, New York. Here she advised a student in her studio.

## OPPOSITE PAGE

A detail of the oil-portrait demonstration in progress.

The history of art is often the history of portrait painting, as many of the most important works by past masters such as Leonardo, Titian, Velázquez, Gainsborough, Holbein, Degas, and Sargent were portraits. Artists continue to be challenged to offer both a likeness of a sitter and a personal interpretation of what they observe, and there are a number of important contemporary portrait artists who conduct workshops, record video and DVD programs, and lecture at conventions. Wende Caporale is one such portraitist who shares her knowledge and professional experience with

aspiring artists. Two years ago she allowed cameras to film an informative demonstration—*Wende Caporale, Working From Life* (Famous Painter Films, a Division of Jack Richeson & Co., [www.richesonart.com](http://www.richesonart.com))—and this year she offered intensive workshops in Appleton, Wisconsin, and in North Salem, New York, for artists who wanted to paint the figure in either oil or pastel, the two painting media she uses to execute her own commissions.

In her workshops, Caporale offered demonstrations of her own approach, reviewed examples of her commissioned portraits, gave students time to paint from a live model, offered individual advice to each student, and concluded with general remarks about methods for continuing to learn and improve one's skills and understanding. She offered similar lessons during her filmed program.

In each of these classes, Caporale began by discussing the various decisions an artist must make while consulting with his or her client; then she gave instruction about drawing the model, laying out a palette of colors, and premixing appropriate skin and background colors.

### Plan the Portrait

During her first meeting with a portrait client, Caporale discusses both the client's expectations and her own recommendations. They talk about what is to be included in the painting—a head-and-shoulders, full-length, or three-quarters view of the person—where the picture will hang,



All demonstration photos: Kenneth Cabrielsen, Croton-on-Hudson, New York ([www.gabrielsenphotography.com](http://www.gabrielsenphotography.com))