

# Nature-Inspired Art Classes with 3t Vakil

Introducing a new and exciting program of art classes with 3t Vakil at Las Casas de la Selva, Patillas, designed specifically for groups of 8 adults, or 8 children over 8 years of age, (plus chaperones). These immersive classes will offer participants a unique opportunity to explore their creativity while being surrounded by the lush rainforest environment of Puerto Rico. Led by 3t, an artist known for her nature-inspired abstract compositions, and philosophical discussions, these classes will guide students through various techniques, from drawing and painting to exploring textures, colors, and ideas inspired by nature.

Each two-hour session will focus on creating a deep connection to the natural world, encouraging participants to find inspiration in the forest's rich biodiversity. Children and adults alike will engage in hands-on creative exercises, learning how to capture the beauty of plants, trees, and the dynamic forces of nature through expressive art forms. Whether you're a beginner looking to explore your artistic side or an experienced artist seeking fresh inspiration, these classes provide a space to nurture creativity and learn new skills in a peaceful, verdant setting.

Join 3t at Las Casas de la Selva and experience the joy of creating art within one of Puerto Rico's most stunning natural landscapes. All materials are provided.

## The Flow



### **1: Introduction to nature-inspired art**

Focus: Observation and sketching techniques

Activities:

- Overview of the program and materials.
- Introduction to basic drawing techniques.
- Outdoor sketching session focusing on plants and natural textures.



## 2: Exploring botanical forms

Focus: Drawing plants and trees

Activities:

- Learning about botanical forms and structures.
- Detailed sketching of leaves, branches, and flowers.
- Developing accuracy and detail in botanical studies.



## 3: Colors of the forest

Focus: Understanding color and mixing

Activities:

- Introduction to color.
- Exploration of colors in nature.
- Practical exercise on mixing and blending paints to match natural hues.



## 4: Textures & patterns in nature

Focus: Texture creation in art

Activities:

- Exploring different textures found in nature.
- Techniques to replicate textures using various materials (pencils, paints, charcoal).
- Creating texture studies based on the environment around Las Casas de la Selva.



### 5: Bringing landscapes to life

Focus: Composition and perspective

Activities:

- Introduction to landscape drawing and painting.
- Understanding perspective and depth.
- Creating a landscape composition inspired by the surrounding rainforest.



### 6: Abstract expression of natural elements

Focus: Translating nature into abstract art

Activities:

- Exploring abstraction by focusing on elements like water, wind, and earth.
- Free form drawing and painting, using nature as a source of inspiration.
- Emphasis on self-expression and dynamic forms.
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### 7: Mycelium and the forest floor

Focus: Hidden worlds beneath the surface

Activities:

- Artistic exploration of fungi, roots, and the life beneath the forest floor.
- Detailed studies of shapes and forms found in this micro-ecosystem.
- Translating complex natural forms into visual art.



## 8: Expressive botanical art

Focus: Expressing emotion through nature-inspired art

Activities:

- Techniques for bringing emotion and energy into botanical studies.
- Experimenting with bolder strokes, colors, and compositions.
- Developing a personal style in nature-inspired art.



## 9: Mixed media creations

Focus: Combining techniques and materials

Activities:

- Introduction to mixed media techniques.
- Combining different materials (paints, pencils, organic materials) to create layered compositions.
- Exploring how various media can represent elements of the natural world.

## 10: Final Project and Showcase.

Focus: Completing a nature-inspired art piece

Activities: Students work on a final project that brings together the techniques learned.

Guidance from 3t on refining and completing the artwork.

COST: \$1,200 per person for a 7-day immersive art program in the rainforest, led by 3t Vakil. This comprehensive package offers three daily meals, all materials, and accommodation, ensuring a comfortable and inspiring stay. The retreat begins with an orientation dinner on Day 1 and concludes with a farewell breakfast on Day 7. Each day features four hours of guided art classes in the lush rainforest setting. Mornings start with a meditation, while free time can be spent practicing art, exploring forest trails, or relaxing by the river. Inspired by the concept of shinrin-yoku, or "forest bathing," this retreat is designed to enhance creativity and deepen connections with nature.

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## ABOUT 3t

Thrity (3t) Vakil is an accomplished artist whose journey spans decades of painting, performance, research, adventure, and environmental activism. Her work as an artist is deeply intertwined with her passion for the natural world, specifically the tropical rainforest of Puerto Rico, where she serves as President of Tropic Ventures Research & Education Foundation (Las Casas de la Selva). This 1,000-acre sustainable forestry and rainforest enrichment project in Carite, Patillas, has been her home, scientific research project, and creative sanctuary for over two decades.

3t's profound connection to nature is deeply rooted in her birthplace, Kenya, and was further shaped by a three-year expedition aboard the Research Vessel Heraclitus. As part of the Planetary Coral Reef



Foundation and the Institute of Ecotechnics, she sailed across the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean, diving to study coral reefs and documenting their fragile ecosystems. This immersive experience of exploring some of the planet's most remote marine environments continues to influence her artistic work, bringing a unique perspective on the interconnectedness of life on land and sea.

Educated in the UK with a BA (Hons) in 3-Dimensional Theater Design from Trent Nottingham University, 3t began her career as a scenic artist in London's West End theaters. Her work in performance and design developed into a rich fine art practice, where nature's untamed beauty, the nature of consciousness, and chthonic forces became central themes. Vakil's art explores the chaotic beauty of plants, trees, and elemental forms, conveying transformation and regeneration.

An art class with 3t Vakil offers a rare opportunity to learn from someone whose life bridges the worlds of art and nature. Combining decades of experience as a painter, drawer, designer, and environmental advocate, Vakil's classes encourage students to explore the beauty of the rainforest while encouraging a deeper connection between creativity and the natural world. It's a chance to learn from an artist who has always lived adventurously, and whose art is deeply informed by her experiences in both the Puertorican rainforest and the world's oceans.

See 3t's latest paintings: <https://3tvakilpaintings2024.myportfolio.com/work>