

*Painting by the Sea*

HYDRA

Becky

BLAIR

ART RETREAT

7-14 October 2025

BOOKING & INFORMATION



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[www.annakwiecinska.com](http://www.annakwiecinska.com)



# Hydra the Muse

Discover this legendary home to artists and writers throughout the C.20th  
For many artists a stay on Hydra, the enchanting, some say magical, Aegean island, was a significant part of how their art was created.

We're choosing to be there, for that reason... the richness of the artistic legacy... and for the chance that such exceptional surroundings will be your muse, too.

On Hydra, writers, painters, songsters, musicians and dreamers of all types, found a place that inspired them. From its shores, looking out to the Aegean or inward to their artistic dreams, poetry, novels, avant-garde texts, masterpieces in paint and word, emerged. Be there, with us, and find your own threads of inspiration.



It's mid-Autumn, the locals are relaxed, you've arrived onto one of Greece's most picturesque islands - one with no vehicular traffic - only donkeys, water taxis and meandering footpaths and horse trails - and you have ahead of you a week of working closely with Becky Blair who has developed a truly unique style, central to which is her lexicon of symbols which evolve through the techniques she is going to share with you this week.

# What you'll do

This sketch-booking through observation is an ever-evolving process, and keeping a collection of books over time is an incredibly satisfying thing in itself, but these books become a precious repository for all of your creative endeavors to follow, whether it's as a painter, ceramicist, textile designer, jewellery maker, glass artist ... in fact, anything where bringing *your* unique interpretation of something you want to communicate visually is important.



This 8-day/7-night retreat offers you a quietly relaxed week to focus on creating two beautifully full and potent personal visual journals of your explorations, discoveries and meaningful moments on the island of Hydra, with the guidance and inspiration of British artist and designer Becky Blair, whose lively and eclectic style, combined with her vivid use of colour and dream-like reflections, has seen her highly-sought-after work sold through exhibitions and private commissions internationally.

[CLICK PHOTO FOR DETAILED BIO](#)

With 18-hours of art tuition (3 hrs art time per day for 6 days, in various settings) sharing Becky's techniques and processes for exploring the motifs and things you've noticed, re-creating them in an abstract way by playing with them and evolving them into a personal lexicon of forms from which you can draw on in all of your following work. You will also, later in the week, use these motifs and methods to create works on paper which you'll be able to take home, ready to display.







You will take home a collection of works on quality paper, providing not only souvenirs of a memorable holiday on this unique island, but as a compendium of enhanced motifs which you'll be able to draw on and even elaborate on in your own studio work



# Where does the retreat take place ?

The retreat hub offers accommodation, breakfast and relaxed and private places for the art both outside beneath a 200-year old olive tree in high-walled courtyard, and inside beneath a high-beamed ceiling (should very occasional rain happen).

Although Hydra is a very vertical island, with steeps scaling steep hills populated with the iconic, picturesque stone houses, our retreat hub is just a few minutes' walk from the port, on flat ground, with no steps required to approach it. The hotel has ground, first and second floors (no lift), with a dedicated buffet breakfast bar, sea view terrace access for all.



Please visit [www.annakwiecinska.com](http://www.annakwiecinska.com) where you'll find on the home page automatic downloads for more information about Hydra, including:

- a suggested reading list
- and a guide for walks on Hydra - which will show you some of the wonderful destinations we have instore for our plein air sessions+ great swimming+ fabulous tavernas for lunch

# What does your Retreat include?

- **Accommodation with Breakfast** for 7 nights
- **Breakfasts 7**
- **Taverna Lunches 3**
- **Welcome Dinner**
- **Farewell Dinner**
- **18 Hours of Art Tuition with Becky Blair over 6 days**
- **Some Art Materials**
- Water taxis to 2 destinations for painting and lunch
- Boat trip to Ermioni on Peloponnese for a day of painting off the rocks besides pristine clear waters, perfect for jumping into refresh before lunch (this depending on the weather, i.e.seas)
- Have fun with a sunset lesson of traditional Greek dancing by the sea
- National Museum visit with a special guest (*surprise!*)
- Visit to the home and studio of Hydra's famous C.20th artist Panayotis Tetsis
- gift bag with art goodies

For **DETAILED** information on **ART MATERIALS** please see the [website page](#) dedicated to this retreat





[Find all the retreat details including costs, \*\*HERE\*\* \(click on link\)](#)

For more detail or queries, please don't hesitate to contact retreat curator and organisers, Anna Kwiecinska, who lived on Hydra for two years and returns regularly.



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Becky and Anna really look forward to sharing this week of unbounded creativity with you,

*See you there!*