

SEEING DIFFERENTLY

Drawing, Perception & Leadership

A creative space near Acqui Terme, Piedmont, Italy

Overview

This five-day residential professional development programme brings together drawing practice, systems-psychodynamic thinking, and reflective practice to support leaders being more creative and effective.

Set in a privately held villa in the hills near Acqui Terme, the programme offers a carefully held environment in which experienced professionals can step out of habitual pace and reconnect with how they perceive, interpret, and decide - individually and within systems.

The work is grounded in the understanding that how leaders see is inseparable from how they think, relate, and lead, particularly under conditions of complexity and uncertainty.

Seeing differently

Most leaders are highly trained in analysis, judgement, and decision-making. Far fewer have had the opportunity to examine the moment before these processes begin.

The practice of drawing slows perception and invites sustained attention to form, relationship, and presence; long enough for habitual interpretations to loosen. As perception changes, thinking begins to shift. From a systems-psychodynamic perspective, this shift in perception also reveals how inner patterns, roles, and assumptions shape leadership behaviour.

The drawing work is inspired by Betty Edwards' *Drawing on the Artist Within*, whose central insight is both simple and radical: adults can learn to draw by learning to see differently.

Participants are guided through a carefully sequenced series of drawing exercises over five days. The work is immersive and experiential, combining individual drawing practice with reflection, walking, and shared inquiry.

This is:

- not art therapy
- not self-expression
- not about producing polished drawings

It is a practice of attention, perception, and inner orientation, held with rigour and simplicity.

No prior drawing experience is required.

Using the surroundings

The villa has extensive natural gardens and views to the vineyards and hills. The setting creates a contained environment that supports reflection, solitude, and meaningful exchange. Time is deliberately spacious, allowing insights to emerge without pressure.

For whom

This retreat is designed for senior leaders and professionals who work with complexity and pressure, who tend to rely heavily on thinking and judgement.

It resonates with those who:

- are curious about creativity, but sceptical of performative or overly abstract workshops
- value depth, discipline, and reflective space
- sense the need to reconnect with a steadier inner orientation before acting

Facilitation

[Nuala Dent](#) is a senior practitioner in systems-psychodynamic coaching and consulting for change, based in Melbourne, Australia. She works internationally with leaders and organisations navigating complexity, transition, and identity, and brings decades of experience in executive coaching, group work, and leadership development.

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[Susann Naomi Israel](#) is an executive and group coach and organisational development consultant, creating reflective spaces for leaders to reconnect with inner clarity, creative capacity, and grounded action. Casa Hygge is her working and retreat environment in Piedmont.

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Together, they combine deep perceptual practice, systems-psychodynamic understanding, and carefully held space; offering participants a rare opportunity to work at the intersection of seeing, sense-making, and leadership.

Practical details

5-day residential professional development programme

Acqui Terme, Piedmont, Italy

Thursday 30 April – Monday 4 May 2026

If you would like to be notified when pricing and registration details are released, you are warmly invited to register your interest. There is no obligation.