

Susan Murrell

New Artist



Mission Statement:

To create a positive, experiential learning environment for art with a focus on investigating interdisciplinary connections and articulating discoveries. To aid in student's creative process from idea development, media exploration and mastering new techniques, in order to manifest a concept to its most effective visual form.

Grades Served:

Pre-K-12, Adult

Lives In:

Hood River, OR

Homestay:

Not Required

Curriculum Connections

CE	CL	CS	CT
GH	LA	MC	PG
SC	VA		

Action - Reaction

This series of classes is focused on fostering creativity, combining both physical and reflective ways to generate ideas and imagery. While looking at the action painters of the 1950's and contemporary conceptual art practices, participants will develop their work in two parts. First, students will explore the materiality of paint as we splatter, drop, and let it flow! Then students will use journaling and brainstorming as a tool to tap into inspiration and decide where to take the work from there. Articulating ideas using appropriate art vocabulary will be emphasized. Philosophical topics such as time and cultural relativity can be emphasized to suit primary teacher's units.

The Printed Image

Participants will learn about many printmaking techniques - relief prints, collagraphs, monotypes, and experimenting with collage. Students will gain experience on an etching press and/or learn to print by hand. The focus on imagery can be determined to fit any unit of study that the primary teacher would like to explore visually. Students will gain an understanding of the historical importance of the printed image, work in two-dimensional problem solving, and utilize the elements and principles of art to create strong compositions. The specific techniques explored will be determined by the length of the residency and curriculum needs of the primary teacher.

Staff and Community Offerings

There are many possibilities in topics to assist teachers in integrating art into their curriculum. Here are just a few examples:

- "Create Critiques Not Critics!" create a non-intimidating atmosphere in which to interpret and discuss artwork and aesthetics.
- "Invented Communities" learning about culture through the form and functions of day to day architecture and design.
- "Learning to see, Learning to draw" helping students who want to improve drawing skills - without squelching creativity!

Facilities and Supplies

A clean classroom with large tables and access to a sink. Action-Reaction would require an outdoor space or garage where there was no concern of spilled paint. Printmaking may be stationary or move between classrooms. Both residencies require room for work to dry undisturbed. Material cost per student will approximately be one to eight dollars per student.

About the Artist...

Susan Murrell earned her MFA in painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design where she attended on an Artistic and Academic Merit fellowship. She received a BA in printmaking and completed K-12 Art Education certification at the University of Northern Colorado. Her printmaking background has given her a special affinity toward works on paper, although she also utilizes painting, sculpture, encaustic and manufactured objects in her large-scale installations. Her current creative interests explore the acquisition and recall of knowledge as well as the parallels between our analysis of the natural world and the scrutiny with which she views her creative process. She has exhibited her work nationally, and has been awarded artist residencies in New York City and Nebraska. Susan has taught art to elementary through college students, as well as workshops for k-12 art teachers.