

INSTRUCTOR BIOS • DAC FALL COURSES

JASON ABIDE is a Chapel-Hill-based artist who has taught videography, video editing, and pottery at The Peoples Channel and The Carrboro ArtsCenter since 2009. He is also a practicing artist and documentarian, with projects ranging from a feature documentary focused on The Playmakers Repertory Company "Cacophony," (2012) to an ongoing short film series called "Conversations with Artists," (2011-present). He maintains the website reallyprettycardinals.com, which showcases his works in ceramics. He holds a degree in biology and psychology from the University of Mississippi.

ERICA ALEXANDER is a flutist, music educator, and certified Koru Mindfulness instructor. Her work explores how music and mindfulness enhance our lives and help us lean into our dreams. She has a Masters in Music Education (MME) and all-level music and Suzuki certifications. Erica has led mindfulness classes in high school, university, corporate and health care settings. She has taught music in private and group settings for over 20 years. She leads workshops and flute circles on Native-American-style flutes. Her music school, The Open Wings School, offers private lessons which incorporate the Suzuki method and meditation. Find out more at openwingsflute.com.

LISA BROWN developed an interest in pottery when she was given a small and lovely porcelain vase at the age of five. In 2005, sparked by a chance encounter while on the Durham Art Walk, Lisa began studying at community art studios. She continued her education by taking private lessons with Julie Olson and workshops at Claymakers, the John C. Campbell School, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, the Long Beach Island Foundation and Shakerag. Her primary interests are in form, function, and the natural beauty produced by skilled clay-handling processes. At the same time, Lisa enjoys trying out a wide variety of surface decoration techniques, including majolica, and particularly likes texture (carving, stamping, appliqué) for bringing the clay surface to life.

BRITTANY CARLSON holds a BFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She and her husband recently relocated to Durham, NC from Brooklyn, NY. For the past seven years Brittany has been working as an art educator for various organizations and non-profits some of those including; The International Center of Photography, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, and the Dedalus Foundation. She has worked with children K-12 in her practice as an art educator and in the past three years has assisted in piloting and maintaining successful portfolio development programs for High School students interested in pursuing a college degree in the arts. As an artist Brittany works in various mediums including: drawing, printmaking, photography, mixed media, and fiber arts. As an art educator she enjoys teaching her students through both technical and creative lessons, while also preparing them with the skills to both write and speak about the art they are creating.

DIANA CATHCART is a Durham-based textile artist who is the owner and maker at The Textile Creative, LLC, a web-based retail business that focuses on strengthening the relationship between people and the textiles they wear and use every day of their lives. She holds a B.A. in psychology and costume production from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and studied fashion design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Diana grows and processes many of her own dyestuffs at her home in Durham. She is focused on utilizing ethically sourced, natural fibers in her work, and employing natural and organic dye processes to provide color and depth to her products.

CAROLYN COLE is an adult educator turned improviser who trained at major theater schools, including The Upright Citizen's Brigade (UCB/ NYC), Second City, and iO in Chicago. She has studied under Susan Messing, Rich Talarico, David Razowsky, and Jimmy Carrane, among others. Her performances include shows with Moonlight Stage Company, ComedyWorx, DSI and at the NC Comedy Arts Festival. When Carolyn travels, she often performs with improv pals in NYC, Chicago, and Yosemite! The independent troupe, 'PLEIADES,' is her current focus. Carolyn also teaches improv at Duke's OLLI program. She believes that improv wisdom can make a positive difference in your everyday life.

LISA CREED, principal of Credo Design, is both a graphic designer and an artist. Lisa has taught at various colleges and universities in the area and currently is a full time faculty member in the Graphic Design department at the Art Institute of Raleigh-Durham located at the America Tobacco Campus in Durham. In 1999 Lisa had a Wurlitzer Fellowship for painting in Taos, NM. She was also an artist in residence at the Vermont Studio Center in 1995. Lisa's paintings are exhibited in galleries around the country and her work is in numerous private and corporate collections. Her local gallery is the Eno Gallery located in Hillsborough, NC. She enjoys teaching both graphic design and painting and often blends the two disciplines. You can visit her website: www.lisacreedartist.com.

CAITLIN DONOVAN has worked with chainmaille for over three years, creating jewelry and nerd-tastic artifacts to share with friends and family. She firmly believes the relaxed mindfulness that comes from designing patterns and weaving the links can't be found anywhere else. Caitlin has taught crafting clubs as a Fulbright Scholar in South Korea, as well as in her daily job as a Durham Public Schools teacher.

LARRY DOWNING received his BFA in sculpture from UNC Chapel Hill. He has taught at DAC and Durham School of the Arts for many years. Larry has enjoyed classes at Penland School of Craft, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Rhode Island School of Design. His work can be seen at the Mahler Gallery and the Collector's Gallery in Raleigh. He has had tea pots in the National Tea Pot show at Cedar Creek Gallery. Larry uses clay as his primary sculpture media and experiments with joining other materials with the clay, allowing him ultimate freedom for his poetic constructions. He has taught nearly every age and experience level.

ROYLEE DUVALL has spent most of his life working in photography. He began by reading and experimenting then perfected the craft attending art and design workshops and courses from universities and community colleges. Roylee has been a freelance photographer for over 30 years, has operated a photo studio, owned and managed a camera store, worked as a photo-industry sales rep, has taught computer skills and photography, and currently operates the photo gallery "Through This Lens" in downtown Durham.

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JAN FRENCH is a local multi-fiber artist, teaching and demonstrating weaving, felting, dyeing, and spinning at the Scrap Exchange, Triangle schools, fiber festivals, and yarn shops since 2005. She is member of the local Twisted Fibers Arts Guild and the Triangle Weavers Guild. Her woven artwork and collaborations combine handspun upcycled and unusual fibers.

CAROL LIZ FYNN is a passionate watercolor artist with a preference for realism and detail, she paints landscapes, seascapes, still lifes, florals, animals, abstracts, watercolor batiks, and portraits. Above all else, Carol Liz is a master teacher who loves developing talent in others. She is known for her clarity of instruction, her skills in the media, and her encouraging sense of humor. Although she continues to teach and demonstrate across the United States and Europe, she is delighted to call Durham, North Carolina, her new home

JOHN GLEESON is a native of Nottingham England, initially moving to Massachusetts and then NH in 1969. He began playing 6 and 12-String acoustic Rhythm Guitar in a Classical Banjo group called "Banjo Medley". After a few years he began to study Clarinet, Piano and Music Theory, and played for 10+ years in the Merrimack NH Community Concert Band. After moving to NC in 2005 he took up the 5-String Banjo and played in many local Bluegrass Jams. In 2010, he added the Tenor Ukulele to his repertoire. He has played in several "Uke" Jams in the Triangle area, and hosted a Jam in Cary for 18+ months. John has taught a series of workshops addressing not only playing techniques, but also the basics of Music Theory. John believes very strongly that the foundation of a well-versed musician is a good understanding of those basics. Currently he is exploring various genres on the "Uke" by co-hosting a "Rock, Blues, et al Jam" every Sunday afternoon in Fuquay-Varina.

JULIA GREEN earned an MFA in fiction writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She has taught writing to students aged 8 to 88 and believes that everyone has a unique voice that deserves to be heard, and that writing can be a joyful, empowering process that enriches our humanity. She lives in Carrboro with her husband and is at work on her first novel. Learn more about her at juliafgreen.com.

BECCA HULETT, longtime Durhamite, was first introduced to clay as a 4 year old. As she grew up, her interest varied and clay was left on the back burner. It wasn't until college, when she realized, that though majoring in education, her schedule revolved around UNC Wilmington's clay studio classes! She knew then, that it would be more than an occasional hobby for her and began her development as a clay artist in earnest. Since completing her Master's Degree in Elementary Education, Becca has been a teacher for many years. Simultaneously, she has worked on a parallel path as an accomplished potter. Becca is thrilled to have the opportunity to combine her passion for teaching and her love of pottery as an instructor for Durham Arts Council's Clay Studio.

MARK IWINSKI, (b. 1960) is an artist using interdisciplinary means including site specific works, printmaking, sculpture, photography, and book arts to reveal layers of absence and memory in our landscape and cities. Originally, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he studied sculpture, life drawing, and watercolor, earning his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin in 1991. He has taught undergraduate and graduate studio art courses, including seminars at The College of William and Mary, Dartmouth College, Colby College, Cornell University and Colorado College. He has exhibited widely and been awarded fellowships and awards, including New York Foundation for the Arts and North Carolina Arts Council fellowships. He is also the past recipient of a Constance Saltonstall Foundation Grant for works on paper. His current work addresses the loss of old growth forests and the continued deforestation of our landscape and the impact of urban renewal and sprawl in our cityscapes. He uses a rephotography technique to create images with a spectral slippage between past and current times and places, revealing losses in the architectural fabric and cultural memory of our cities and landscape. He also creates paper casts of tree stumps to provide a sense of the physical scale of lost trees. Additionally he makes prints directly from the crosscuts of logged trees to give an enhanced visual sense of time and scale embedded in old growth forests.

BERNICE KOFF enrolled in a watercolor class over 25 years ago to enhance her art knowledge as a museum docent in Columbus, Ohio. Art classes, gallery exhibits, and juried shows began to fill up her life and she pursued all of them with joy, energy, and a determination to challenge herself to make her art both more skilled and more meaningful. Teaching students the joys of watermedia painting and collage has enhanced both her life since moving to the Triangle and her artwork as well.

KATE LAGALY believes art is woven into every part of her life and everything she does, it has been a constant companion and a driving force. Kate became serious about art as the student of the most extraordinary high school art teacher and went on to earn a BA in art from Xavier University. She works in many mediums, paints and draws every day, and teaches art regularly, including traveling to teach workshops. She regularly enters art exhibitions and competitions; most recently her work has been seen at a solo exhibit at the Cary Senior Center and the Kirby Gallery in Roxboro, and a colored pencil piece has won awards in the GCVAA National Competition in Tennessee and a colored pencil piece has been included in the CPSA Explore This! National Online Exhibit. Kate also enjoys spending time with other artists. She has earned signature memberships in various art organizations including the CPSA, CPX, WSNC, and the SW. Life is good!

MORIAH LEFEBVRE is a graduate of the Visual Arts department at the UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem and received her BA in Studio Art from UNC Chapel Hill. She has spent the past few years working as a freelance artist, photographer, and teacher. She believes that a photography class should not only teach the student the technical aspects of the craft, but allow them a meaningful outlet for communicating with the viewer.

SOL LEVINE'S award winning photography emphasizes the flora, fauna and landscapes in our environment in order to capture the beauty and grace found in nature. He participates in several wildlife and fine art shows along the East Coast along with exhibits in various venues (check the website: naturesimagesbysol.com for the schedule) and presents workshops in a variety of locales. He is a member of, among others, of the North Carolina Wildlife Artists Society, the Carolina Nature Photographers Association, Canon Professional Services and the Wake Forest Guild of Artists.

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ALBERTO LUNG ("Lung" being the Spanish-spelling for "Dragon" in Chinese) completed a Master of Science and worked in Food Safety/Brand Protection for a few years before returning to his artistic roots. As a self-taught artist combining a scientific academic background, a passion for archaeology and mythology, and some Manga inspiration, Alberto currently designs and teaches cartoon-sketching workshops for children to promote their visual literacy and creativity. Alberto uses speedsketching demonstrations of ninjas and fantasy creatures to engage young audiences and introduce them to suitable art supplies to develop their drawing skills.

LIBBY LYNN is a full-time working artist in Durham, NC. She was certified in Encaustic Painting at Penland School of Crafts in 2008. She has been teaching encaustic painting workshops for over 5 years, and enjoys working with beginners and experienced encaustic painters.

SARA MCCREARY earned a MS in Mass Comm. at the VCU Brandcenter, which led her to Durham where she teaches children's arts and crafts and ceramics. She has been working with ceramics for over 15 years. She enjoys sharing her skills with students of all ages. She encourages exploration and experimentation for maximum creativity and fun.

NORA PHILLIPS is a painter and fiber artist living in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina. She was born and grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After living and working in Argentina and Colombia, she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in California and pursued her interests in contemporary quilting and textile design. In 1995 she relocated to North Carolina to the Triangle area with a strong desire to establish her artistic career in fiber design and quilting. During the initial years Nora dedicated herself to learning the many techniques of fiber painting and becoming proficient. Nora taught quilting and fabric manipulation classes and had my textile artworks exhibited in shows in Raleigh and Cary, NC. Nora's work in fiber painting and fabric dying naturally led her to become very interested in painting as a medium in itself and to the study of color. Nora has exhibited my paintings at the North Carolina Museum of Art, the City of Raleigh Museum and the Greenville Museum of Art, at galleries in the Triangle Area (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Cary) in NC, and several of them are in private art collections.

RANDY REED Guitar professor at Duke University since 1994 and St. Mary's School since 1997, has performed throughout the United States. Randy Reed holds degrees from Florida State and Southern Methodist Universities and was an assistant professor of music at the University of Texas El Paso. He has performed solo concerts in many of the venues in the Triangle and in 2006 performed Lalo Schiffrin's Guitar Concerto at Duke. Reed has always enjoyed mixing Pop with Classical for gigs/restaurants.

SADARRYLE RHONE has been creating her own paper beads for more than two years. Much like artists who knit, she finds paper bead rolling to be cathartic and relaxing. She also enjoys the experimental nature of paper bead making – the "hunt" for unique pieces of paper scraps, and not always knowing what finished beads might look like after the paper is cut and rolled. When she isn't selling her line of paper bead jewelry at the Durham Craft Market and other craft shows, Sadarryle uses her free time to continue exploring new and different ways to manipulate bead shapes and experiment with various glazing techniques. As one customer indicated recently, she "knows how to make paper beads look elegant and sophisticated."

DALE RIO's childhood passion for art was focused on photography the moment she picked up a camera. Through her undergraduate and graduate school education, she explored ways to communicate her inner thoughts and reactions to the world through photographic imagery. In the years since, she has expanded her explorations to include portrait, documentary, and landscape projects and recently distilled her disparate interests into a focused attempt to address issues like mortality, permanence, and man's relationship to the natural world. Her method of expression is determined by her subject matter. In her various bodies of work, there can be found color, black & white, and platinum/palladium prints, small and mural-sized prints; whatever best expresses the subject. Her constant is use of film. Having "come of age" photographically in the pre-digital era, She found it impossible to embrace the process of digital photography when traditional processes hold so much magic for her. After more than twenty years as a photographer, she still gets giddy when she sees new negatives, and is happiest when printing in the darkroom.

DAWN MARIE ROZZO works as an exhibiting painter, and teaching artist. Her paintings are exhibited and sold regionally in North Carolina and are in private collections across the United States. Dawn attended Alfred University, and Empire State College and graduated in 1992 with a degree in painting and graphic design. She has painted and taught and created art programming ever since. In the past 12 years, in addition to her studio practice, she has taught senior adults with disabilities art and enrichment programming. She knows that opportunities for creative expression can activate hope. Her recent collages are a playful intersection between observed natural behaviors of birds and garden creatures and the recording of human endeavors in repurposed pages of antiquated books. Her ongoing landscapes record her emotional response to the variance of weather and memory.

BETH CRADDOCK SMITH is a career public-school teacher turned artist. She works in watercolor, oil, charcoal and pencil. In the summers, she has studied plein air painting in Greece and New Brunswick through the Maryland Institute College of Art and in the NC mountains through the Ringling College of Art and Design. She seeks to guide students in developing their personal artistic language by focusing on process and discovery.

MARGIE STEWART enjoys connecting students to their true passions in drawing and painting. She encourages an atmosphere of creative exploration and self-acceptance while maintaining the importance of visual literacy. She has an MFA in Painting and Drawing from UNCG, an MPD in Graphic Design from NCSU and an MEd from UNC. She is a practicing artist and has taught drawing and painting for many years.

JULES SZABO is a classical ballet graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (maiden name Julie Redding) who created "The Dancer's Workout" for former and active dancers. She has an infectious love of dance and a knack for teaching intricate choreography in a manner which is fun and easy-to-learn while providing dancers with an exhilarating total body workout.