Arts in Education

Directory of Teaching Artists

The Allentown Art Museum is a proud Arts in the Education Partner with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Since 2004, through the AIE Partnership, the Museum has provided artist residency support across a five county service region that includes Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Southern Pike Counties.

The artists included in this Directory represent a variety of art disciplines and are the best the region has to offer.

Please contact Arts in Education Manager, Amanda Lovell, if you are interested in conducting an artist residency in your school or community organizations.

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FOLK ARTS

Lisa Facciponti – Storyteller

Lisa Facciponti has been working professionally as a traditional storyteller and teaching artist since 1998. She has conducted residencies for toddlers through eighth grades, presented workshops, performed and organized events throughout the Northeastern United States, Mexico and Guatemala. Her residency work includes “at risk” or adjudicated youths, and partial hospitalization and emotional support classrooms.


In residency work, Lisa often combines storytelling with W. African Drumming, Spanish language, traditional community/ballroom/Latin/swing dances, and visual art, as appropriate, to add dimension to the student experience. Additionally, Lisa has 9 years of teaching experience as an environmental educator, prior to her work as a teaching artist. She strongly believes in the value of the arts in education.

Artist Contact:

Website: www.lisafacciponti.com

Age Range for residencies:

Early childhood, Elementary, Middle/Junior High School, Adult, Senior
I love how words enable us to discover meaning and transform knowledge into understanding. I’m excited by and have taught the poetry of diverse cultures, including China and Japan, and of varied poets, including Native Americans and the poets of the Harlem Renaissance. My classes are tailored to the group or classroom. I’ve connected writing poetry with History, Art, Math, Science, Physical Education, and Language Arts. My writing has been published in diverse venues. I also edit and publish an international bi-annual journal of tanka (a Japanese 5-phrase form) and can speak about being on both sides of the publishing experience. I am very pleased to have helped elementary, middle, high school and college students and women emerging from prison give voice to their lives.

Age Range for residencies:
Elementary, Middle/Junior, High School, Adult, Senior
I delight in showing students and workshop participants that their feelings and experiences are the stuff of poetry and creative prose. My own poetry is often narrative and deals with real people and personal issues. I favor free verse, but I also focus on sound patterns obtained with alliteration and assonance, and sometimes I play with internal rhyme. I also write haiku, tanka (a Japanese 5-phrase form), and I combine both of these forms with prose. As a teaching artist, I stimulate writing through leading group discussions and collaborative writing exercises, reading examples of poetry, or drawing and writing responses to photographs and paintings. I utilize a series of assignments to help participants grow confident using the verbal strategies of poetry. I gladly collaborate with classroom teachers, arts specialists, and leaders of community groups to set goals and integrate writing into curricula and programming.

Age Range for residencies:
Elementary, Middle, Adult, and Seniors
SATORI – Chamber Music Ensemble

SATORI is a professional chamber music ensemble, based in Pennsylvania’s Lehigh valley, and performing regularly throughout the eastern United States. Its mission is to foster growth in the chamber music appreciation through a regular series of educational programs, public performances, and special projects; to present chamber music in an accessible repertoire. The group regularly plays both traditional and contemporary chamber music, often intertwined in a single performance. Since 1998, SATORI has conducted 192 music education presentations and workshops, reaching students from kindergarten to adulthood. SATORI’s name is taken from a Zen term suggesting the coming together of separate parts to form a whole—a perfect metaphor for chamber music.

Artist Contact:

Website: www.satori-chambermusic.org

Age Range for residencies:
Elementary, Middle, High School, Adult, Senior
George Miller, Theatre

George Miller co-founded the Selkie Theatre with his wife, Kate Scuffle. They stage productions in both the United States and Ireland. He has worked in professional theater and film for 45 years as an actor, director, playwright, designer, and arts educator.

Artist Contact:
Website: www.selkietheatre.org
Mark McKenna – Theater Artist

Mark McKenna is an independent theater artist with extensive acting, directing, producing, and teaching experience. Mark specializes in physical theatre styles, structures of play and developing relationships, dialogue and civic action through theater. A full-time resident ensemble member at Bethlehem’s Touchstone Theatre from 1986-2008, he led the company from 1995. Mark designed many of the company’s education programs and has participated in over 75 theater residencies in the pre-K to grade 12 classrooms throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. He has taught for theater programs at the University of Pennsylvania, the MA Program at Villanova, Towson State University’s MFA program, Lehigh University and Muhlenberg College. He designs professional development workshops in cultural competency, communication and relationship building. Mark has worked with diverse populations in traditional and non-traditional settings. Residencies are tailored to school/community goals and teacher/student needs.

Age Range for residencies:
Early childhood, Elementary, Middle/Intermediate, High School, University, Adult, Senior
Kate Scuffle - Theatre

Kate Scuffle co-founded the Selkie Theatre with her husband, George Miller, in 2005. They stage productions in both the United States and Ireland. Kate has worked with educational theater troops and community organizations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Her workshops include improvisational theater games inspired by Viola Spolin, an important innovator in American theater. These ice-breaker games emphasize physical movement as a means of fostering teamwork and collaboration. In addition to her work with the Selkie Theater, Kate hosts a program on Allentown’s WDIY and serves on the Education Committee of the Celtic Cultural Alliance in Bethlehem, PA.

Artist Contact:

Website: www.selkietheatre.org
Delwin Fiddler, Jr. is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and from a family of medicine men and women in the lineage of the Keepers of the Pipe. He enjoys being able to share songs, dances, flute playing, history and wisdom from the Lakota Native American nations. Mr. Fiddler is prepared to discuss the origin and meaning of his hoop and grass dances, he provides programming of Native American performing arts, educational programs, interactive cultural presentations, cultural tourism and discussions of the Native American perspective on the environment.

Mr. Fiddler’s interactive and educational programs are ideal for museums, schools, colleges, environmental organizations, government entities and faith communities. Hands on activities include drumming, singing, social dances, story-telling, history from the Native American perspective, panel discussions, presentations, lectures, demonstrations, theatrical productions, craft workshops, and dance workshops.

Artist Contact:

www.facebook.com/lakotagrassdancer

Age Range for residencies: All ages
Visual Arts

Virginia Abbott - Sculptor

When people see my work, I hope they enjoy or are moved by the subject matter. But just as important is that they begin to discover how surprisingly intricate and beautiful yet sturdy, sculpture made from recycled materials can be. I create cast paper sculpture entirely from post-consumer pulp, which is pressed into molds from my original designs. It is my small way helping the earth stay green. Who knows, if more of us thought about ways to turn trash into treasure, it might not be such a bad thing. Mother Nature would certainly approve.

Artist Contact:

Website:
www.virginiaabbott.com

Age Range for residencies:
Middle School, Secondary, Adult, and Senior.
William Christine – Painter

My studio discipline is painting in oil, watercolor, and acrylic. In residency work I often incorporate other disciplines. Recent projects have used collaborations with teachers, actors, musicians, and students to produce murals, fountains, sculptures, dramatic performances, mosaics, architectural models, storytelling and other multi-disciplinary events. Curriculum connections include history, math, physics, science, and language arts.

Artist Contact:

Website: http://www.princestreeltgallery.com/w_christine.html

Age Range for residencies:

Early childhood, Elementary, Middle/Junior High School, Adult, Senior
Rosemary Geseck – Painter/Muralist

A good drawing basis is a paramount jumping off point in my teaching philosophy. I champion strong composition with an emphasis on narrative style ranging from Realism to Pop Art, Impressionism, and cartooning. Abstraction is always a welcome addition. An integral emphasis in my teaching style is always color; how to manipulate it for evocative mood by complimentary color mixing, color change and application.

Age Range for residencies:
Early childhood, Elementary, Middle & High School, Adult, Senior
Matt Halm – Painter/Muralist

Born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Matt Halm is an accomplished muralist and teacher. A graduate of William Allen High School and Syracuse University, Halm has worked as a professional artist and teacher for over a decade, creating dynamic mural work for a vast variety of clients throughout the eastern United States. His original, vibrant work is bold and vital, and concentrates on the relationship between the image and the environment, as well as the viewer and the theme. This unique style seeks to meld symbolism and storytelling, creating original compositions with provocative thematic propositions. The artist revels in adapting a sensibility and philosophy to the varied challenges of a specific piece. His community mural projects serve to engage the host neighborhoods and citizens, adapting each dynamic piece to connect to the ethos and pathos of the audience.

With the opportunity to share his knowledge and passion for murals, teaching has become a new ardor. Working with students is challenging and infinitely rewarding, as Halm seeks to embolden them with creativity, imagination, and collaboration. Inspiration abounds, and the transformative nature of art continues to drive him.

Matt Halm has dedicated himself to learning about and creating public art. His experience has grown with countless obstacles and triumphant ventures. He is a true professional muralist; adaptable, creative, and conscientious.

Artist Contact

Website: matt-halm.com

Age Range for residencies

Elementary, Middle School, Secondary, Adults, Seniors.
Kim Hogan – Mosaics/Murals/Watercolors

My greatest wish is that my art and education elevates the participants in the same way listening to a great piece of music elevates the listener. At the very least, I hope it makes people smile. I have been project leader and collaborator for numerous painted and mosaic murals through the Lehigh Valley. I currently use my talents to help individuals and family members affected by cancer by teaching healing arts workshops. I also have a studio at the Banana Factory, and teach there. I have done mosaic projects with students to reinforce lessons in science and math.

Artist Contact

**Website:**  
http://www.kimhogan.com

**Age Range for residencies**

Elementary, Middle School, Secondary, Adults, Seniors.
Ellen Jamiolkowski – Ceramics

I mainly work with clay when creating my art. It is an amazingly diverse medium, in the sense that it can be flattened and made into tiles, or, molded and shaped into various forms for functional use of pure decoration. Because of this, clay is an ideal medium for students to use to better understand concepts being studied in “core” subjects in schools. Clay as a medium, broken down, is a science class in and of itself! I remember learning the anatomy of a heart from molding it in clay, making sure I formed all the arteries, veins and ventricles and having them all in the proper place. The periodic table can be replicated in clay tiles. Math skills can be strengthened by taking portions, or, fractions of clay and forming wholes. Small children can learn about different shapes by forming them in structures and architectural forms from history by replicating historical buildings that have withstood hundreds of years. What better way to celebrate these historical landmarks than by depicting them in clay! Really, the possibilities are endless when it comes to working with clay and figuring out how to incorporate it into other subjects. I believe we learn best by hearing, seeing and doing.

Age Range for Residencies:
Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle School, Secondary, Adult, and Seniors.
Melissa Perhamus – Painter

Melissa Perhamus is an award-winning artist whose work explores the connection of nature with emotional memories. Melissa has lived in many different areas of Northeastern United States, which is evident in her imagery. She currently works and teaches from her studios at home and at the Banana Factory in Bethlehem, PA. She exhibits consistently in solo and group exhibitions, both nationally and internationally. Melissa received a BA in Studio Art from SUNY Potsdam and studied art at The Colleges of Ripon and York St. John, England.

I call upon shapes, lines and textures from nature, which have become part of my soul and where I find peace and safety from the man-made conflicts of day to day living. These imagined landscapes have a surreal element which challenges the viewer, yet they are also filled with a comfortable familiarity which connects and welcomes. These works are a conglomeration of memories into thought-provoking surrealistic landscapes which invite through their rich colors, engaging shapes, enticing textures and graceful lines.

My current works' theme of "imaginary landscapes of organic memory", are created through a process which incorporates a direct interaction and conversation with each piece as it develops. They begin with a drawing, which I see as the bones or structure of the piece, and from there, a dialogue begins. Through a combination of choices, chances and reactions, layer upon layer, the landscape develops. I see the process similar to how we develop and grow throughout our lives, with each layer representing our experiences built upon previous ones, all which shape who we become.

My abstract memories are what inspire the imagery. Our memories are not linear and are rarely concrete, but are connected. It is our emotional reactions and experiences to a color or texture or overall landscape that allow for the strongest memories. We may recall a feeling we had while contemplating sitting on a rock which correlates with a similar feeling we had while in a conversation with someone. These become connected even if they were not experienced together.

By allowing myself to recall these memories according to this cataloging of experiences and combining the correlating imagery, including colors, lines, shapes, etc., I put together emotionally familiar landscapes that are completely imaginary. There is also an element of freedom to roam and feel since there is no direct connection to an actual experience.

Artist Contact:
FB: Melissa Perhamus Art/Instagram:PerhamusArt / MelissaPerhamusArt.com

Age Range for residencies:
Early childhood, Elementary, Middle/Junior High School, Adult, Senior
Claire B. Marcus – Textile Artist

I am a fifth generation textile artist. My current work incorporates photography, collograph printmaking, and book arts. Basic design and historical context are emphasized in my residencies, in accordance with academic standards. Students may plan and create a permanent installation for the site or for another community group. They enjoy mastering technique and gain appreciation of visual language in their everyday lives and family traditions. Possible themes include the Silk Road, African American quilting, and Celtic fiber arts.

Artist Contact:
Website: www.ClaireMarcusFineArts.com

Age Range for residencies:
Elementary, Middle & Junior High School, Adult, Senior
Victor Stabin – Painter/Illustrator

Victor Stabin is a prolific artist whose work captures the spirit of the environment while inciting the illusive side of the imagination. A self-described eco-surrealistic artist he is well known for his oil paintings that make ordinary objects and environments extraordinary. His influences are the 20th century Surrealists, the 19th Century Japanese watercolor print artists, Advertising Art of the 20th Century and the spirit of the Italian Renaissance. His recently published book “Daedal Doodle,” is an artistic ABC book of alliterations, which is being developed into a school curriculum that engages students through drawing and dictionary skills to enhance their literacy.

Artist Contact:

Website: http://www.victorstabinprints.com

Age Range for residencies:
Elementary, Middle/Junior High School, Adult, Senior
Christian Weber – Graphic Designer

I have always been a creative person. When I was in second grade, and we had ‘choice time,’ I was always the one in the back of the classroom, at the classroom art center making something—anything. As long as I could be creative I was happy. I took extracurricular Saturday fine arts courses throughout much of my elementary career, and I learned to draw, paint, and sculpt. It wasn’t until my senior year of high school however that everything changed. I was made the design editor for the school literary arts magazine. After learning about design, from the purpose, to the creativity and technology, I knew that it is what I would be doing for the rest of my life. I haven’t looked back or questioned my career choice since.

Like a surgeon with a scalpel, a designer works with science and math. Unlike a doctor or mathematician however, he has a series of tools that cannot be easily seen, interpreted or understood. A designer’s best friend and worst enemy is his own imagination. A designer works with the science of color, shape, space, and type. His arsenal is a series of fonts, thumbnails, colors, and his own prerogative. The way a brain surgeon sees the slightest inconsistency on an MRI, a designer sees the same in a layout, dissecting and reevaluating until a solution can be found.

Being a designer is a haunting experience. Design has completely changed my world and my perception of the world around me. It impacts my decisions and my emotions, from which product to buy to what books to read. Design helps me sleep yet keeps me awake at night. I’ve been fortunate enough to be able to work as a freelance designer for some time, and I have absolutely loved every minute of it. As an AIGA member, I’ve absorbed as much design knowledge as I could over the past several years, and have learned so much from working with professional clients. I’ve worked with start-up businesses and businesses looking for a more refined image and I’ve met some of the most wonderfully talented and creative people I could have ever imagined. I wake up every morning feeling like one of the luckiest people alive.

Artist Contact:
Website: christianwebercreatives.com
Age Range for residencies: All ages
Patricia Scialo– Fine Art Photographer

Patricia Scialo, is a Fine Art Photographer specializing in Historic and Alternative Photographic Processes. Students will have the opportunity to view examples of original hand crafted prints that use traditional film processes. An exhibition on site can also be arranged. Workshops are intended for ten to fifteen day minimum visit. The artist provides trays and safe lights for darkroom processing space, electric and running water from nearby sink is required.

- Pinhole Camera Workshop

Introduction: The Camera Obscura, Walk-In Camera Demonstration, First Film Cameras and Historic Photographs, Construction of pinhole camera; convert classroom into working photo lab. Students will have the opportunity to photograph with their pinhole camera using black and white photographic paper, process in the darkroom and make positive prints. Various size cameras for special effects will also be used, in addition to mounting techniques and photo collage.

- The Photogram; Drawing with Light

Using black and white photographic paper and basic chemistry under safe light conditions, students will use their paper negatives created from drawings and collage materials to create camera-less images. Hand tinting and toning techniques will also be explored. Basic darkroom set up will be needed for this workshop.

- Cyanotype Sun Mural

Using this early 18th century process students will design a collaborative mural on fabric. The size of the mural will be determined by the area of installation. Using sun sensitive fabric, objects and figures are used to create a composition based on drawings and a theme determined by the class. Exposure takes place outdoors and can be viewed by large groups.

All of the proposed workshops are open to visual art and science classes, Cross-curriculum is strongly encouraged.

Age Range for residencies: All ages