

CHILDREN'S ART STUDIO AT THE 1820 HOUSE

Magic Summer Arts 2024

A series of eight weeks: Each one week long, morning classes
with enrollment limited to 8 students.

Outdoors under an umbrella.

Monday through Friday, 9 am to 12 pm. Ages 4 years to 12 years.

Weekly tuition \$395.00 per student.

To register or for questions, text (preferred) or call Miss Lani's cell: 774-563-3069
or email the Children's Art Studio shastinaart@gmail.com

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Welcome!

Our summer arts focuses on these especial goals:

1. to encourage, children's creativity through art making
2. to foster enjoyment
3. to be sensitive to children and youth and to allow them to unfold naturally while with us
4. to be quiet, wise, and guide them
5. to learn to "fish" for magical ideas

A natural and beautiful order is the result.

June 17-21: "Drip Drop Dazzle" — The Influence of Jackson Pollock

A fascinating teacher of art, an abstract expressionist. "Take an object, do something to it." Do something else to it! Sound familiar? A new kind of art making was emerging. Extreme – using deflection from the known to the unknown. His artwork, Pollock was said to say, "had a life of its own."

Our summer course will look at Pollock's ambition and drive that was typical of his experimental ways as a student of Thomas Hart Benton.

Children like his comma-like curls and circles, in yellows and white. His looping, dancing lines and pooling paint are freeing and delightful... cheerful, too!

Seeking originality – using zest and delicacy... he is a fascinating artist to study. Our artmaking will be inspired by how this man's ambitions impacted our art world. We shall drip, drop watercolor on canvas – splatter, maybe, even "toss" colors that we love

using our brushes, coupled with a spirit in our hearts of freedom. Join us outside in the sunshine on our Children's Art Studio brick pathway and terrace... under our individual, colorful, summer umbrellas. We welcome you!

June 24-28: Bark for Art... Pooches and More

Ahh, superb subjects to draw... from snooty to exuberant (like Chappy)... dogs have personality and charm threaded through their souls! It's joy they bring to our lives!

Let us capture our feelings, and allow Alexander Calder, the artist, to inspire our creature works of art this week. Sculptures from copper wire will be completed. Steve Lohmann's cow, named Clarabelle, will be our guiding form of an animal person. She resided in a meadow alongside of Miss Lani's studio on the Vineyard – and dogs loved staying alongside of her.

Animals and art – the dynamics bring joy! Plus, your stories about young puppies, pooches, are important to share. As an example, Eleanor's dog Ruby is a visitor to our studio often, and her stories are special about her pet.

- Dogs have attitude!
- Dogs' eyes draw us into their lives!

The form of contentment and heartfelt experiences are dear to Miss Lani's memories of Chappy.

Let's study animal persons and capture when they are relaxed and simply doing their thing! OK? 'Tis so delightful; hilarious, too.

You can count on puppy sculpting and also creating small portraits! We shall even nibble on "dog bone" cookies with yogurt icing. Yum!

Bring your pet one day for we wish to meet our Norwich art families' four-legged friends!

July 1-5: Big Cats... Precious and Few

Leopards, lions, cheetahs, snow leopards, and tigers are on the prowl! Robert Dallet, the French artist Hermès commissioned for 40 years, assists us as we create the beautiful animal persons and their natural world that we must protect! We must!

We are again, wide-eyed. Why? Animals and people – we have always been bound together. Humans are animals, after all.

In art, we shall look at the many bonds with animals and also to the distance between us and them. No other animal makes operas or nuclear weapons. How did we become so different? What made us human?

Animals abound in our earliest art, suggesting that a basic fascination with the bestial community may well have been innate. The cave paintings at Lascaux are an ochre art gallery of horses, stags, bison, felines, a wooly rhinoceros, a bird and a leaping cow – and only one very frail man! We shall enjoy looking at researcher's traces to our roots of animal love. It is our human capacity to infer the mental states of others, a talent that emerged 50,000 to 100,000 years ago.

Back to the present. Ten years ago, on the island of Martha's Vineyard, the children and I adopted a rhino, named "Bob" and an elephant named "Lady Gray" that we support in union with twelve other Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots youth groups. We sent contributions that provide food and shelter for these animals. Our Norwich youth's wish is for them to roam free from harm. You may recall that I shared with you that we joined eighteen youth groups at that time, and adopted Golden and Glitter, two chimpanzees. Our chimps are supported by all my students, and they are healthy and safe from poachers. We are going to organize our own group that we started here in Norwich. I feel certain we agree that animals are valued by us, and we believe in an abundance of a species! Much like the Jaguars in Central America – we wish to see early intervention and animal lives sustained for these beautiful creatures. Animal plight represents the fragility of life on our planet... it is inspiring to be a part of the many complex organizations working to save the miracles of nature!

July 8-12: Jane Goodall—The Watcher

Little Jane Goodall loved to watch all the animals in her world... earthworms, insects, birds, and cats. She loved Dr. Doolittle who talked to animals and told their stories.

As she grew up, her dreams unfolded and she traveled to Africa to study chimpanzees. She watched them, listened to them, and, in time, became their friend.

We are going to read Jane Goodall's biography by Jeanette Winter.

Our project is to develop paintings that coincide with Jane's life work. So while we know she continues to speak out to protect animals and their home environments... we shall listen to her and glimpse at all her projects she is complementing today.

Miss Lani calls her "the watcher" and has asked all of her children artists to do the Goodall pause... daily... be a watcher, too!

Vision, awareness, growth cultivates sharpness. Never being bored a day in her life either, and like Goodall, Miss Lani is going to take us on a journey to alert the world –

chimps need us – they are vulnerable, and, *what if only our paintings were what was left of them?* How would we feel? Let us think – are we ready to raise awareness by painting every day – the Jane Goodall story? Her Institute that Miss Lani is a member has sent us authentic materials. Over 5 years ago we had two blueberry pancake suppers to begin our interest in Jane Goodall’s Roots and Shoots youth programs here. Zoe was there, Bjorn, Millie and Teddy, Phoebe – do you recall?

July 15-19: Picasso’s Landscapes—Let us Paint Places

When we think of Pablo Picasso – immediately a number of paintings and styles of his drawings come to mind! Landscapes, however, were just a small portion of his lifetime output – 200 out of 13,000!

The fact is, however, he painted landscapes all his life. “Picasso’s Landscapes: Out of Bounds” opened Feb. 11 at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, N.C. – with 50 of his landscapes. The collection will also come to Cincinnati Art Museum. Photographs, short films, and postcards – we shall view them all!

Artists use landscapes to experiment with space, line, and other compositional elements.

Picasso’s paintings of mountains of Malaga – his birthplace – was painted when Picasso was 14. When one mirrors his/her personal surroundings – a sense of place – our own Sabre Fields would say, it is a personal “felt experience.”

Picasso used landscapes to work out aspects of what became “cubism”! Geometric shapes, flattened interlocking planes, and multiple perspectives were his choices.

Picasso also painted works that reflected his feelings about his environment. *View of Cannes at Dusk* depicts large disruption – construction of massive buildings – in outlying areas that alarm him about human encroachment on nature. So upset was he – at the “new” landscape – he soon left Cannes!

We shall look – then paint – as if Picasso – our places! Baker Tower, Storr’s Pond, MCS playground, Norwich Inn, Connecticut River, our studio windows and “open” door. Some will be real – maybe a few ideas, invented places – some unrecognizable – it will be fun to see...

July 22-26: Art of Fishing

Artists often tell us the out-of-doors – sea breezes, mountain serenity, river rapids – prompt creative energy! Do you agree?

Claude Monet said, as an example, his garden was responsible for his desire to become a painter!

How about the art of fishing? Grandfathers have been known to say “fishing is in their blood” along with platelets and plasma!

Whether an angler or snorkeler, explorations and dreams of catching a Big Fish are real! Many legends and family stories reveal this passion. Fishing is about wishing! Fishing is about patience!

So back in our schedule each summer goes tying flies and picnicking and fishing. We are inviting Trout Unlimited, a group of naturalists and fishermen, to join us. We are designing flies – tying the flies and with our fishing poles, paint brushes, and worms – we’re going “fin to fin!” Join us for an art adventure, for certain.

We shall draw lines that define textures – create river banks, streams, and waterfalls. We are going to “fish” from the surf, from a row boat, from our hearts! Marty, originally from Marshland Farms, and Marc, my grandson who is a Union College graduate, are going to weigh in with us.

Our wood blocks will be the surface we shall use to paint our images – and the rivers and lakes are the surfaces we hope to imagine a grizzly bear prancing and swiping at the water, nibbling on a salmon supper. Brilliant glass-eyed specimens of beauty and color! Adventure Energy – art making at its best! As a special treat, we will go to Storr’s Pond for two afternoons after our class concludes for a picnic and “real time” fishing from the shore of the pond.

July 29-Aug 2: Our Brilliant Sky

When the Northern lights streak across the skies, the Arctic Circle becomes quite lively. The Aurora Borealis’ neon colors – bright green, pink, violet – are very interesting to witness!

Our week will focus on the thrill of “chasing” them – because the aurora is hard to predict, and peeping lasts mere moments! Why does the aurora appear, where, and what are the requirements that must be in place – we’ll find out! We’ll zero in! Sketching and painting our skies is an artful, fabulous week-long series. Yes, we shall be absorbed by the beauty of our earth.

The Northern lights will glow for us. Let us love our planet and her treasures. Let us honor – cherish – nature.

Aug 5-9: Set Sail... The Art of a Sea Voyage as we Become the Crew of a Sailing Ship

We are going to cultivate confidence... as adventurous artists – yes! Transformative in “real time,” we as artists are going to design a wooden boat! We are going to turn our studio into a boat yard that is ready to build! We need help to rig our boat, however, so craftsmen might join in and help us... ’tis OK – it’s doable!

Passion for the sea! We believe in the value of experiential learning! Our week will give us a chance to learn and grow with knowledge about the sea. Our wooden boat owners and friends will help us learn. Real lessons will invigorate our art-making heARTS, and we will become fascinated by all things nautical.

Our sea paintings that will be created will allow us to be firmly attached to the sea as well!

Miss Lani will read to us Mr. Midshipman Hornblower stories.

All aboard!

Aug 12-16: Aaron Curry—Skate Board Artist Extraordinaire

Artist Aaron Curry’s vivid-hued wild work meets modernist forms! He is, as children say, cutting edge cool! Curry, a Texan living in Los Angeles, calls his recent work “a skate boarder’s interpretation of music dance drama.” Most of curry’s works, his original projects, start out as pencil drawings, almost like scribbles. He draws every day! Curry loves sketching faces. We shall not only paint but we shall use copper wire, twine, and tender, thin branches to sculpt some of his ideas with irregular edges. We’ll begin by learning his vocabulary, which is largely due to comic books and science fiction. Alexander Calder inspired Curry and he may do so for us, too. Let’s doodle and see what the fun processes hold for us this week.

Summer Morning Workshops — Four Fun Art Mornings!

Each workshop is \$50.00 / student • 9 am to 12 pm

Aug 19: Dragon World

Dragons tap our imaginations... Stories, legends, its own silly-billy, sorta-crazy series this first workshop!

The dragon is a legendary creature that has appeared in legends of both eastern and western civilizations.

Serpentine – snake-like drawings – colorful, vibrant, long tails that thrash back and forth... overlapping teeth, eagle-like claws, double heads, breaths of smoke, bat-like wings and/or horns! Oh my...

We are going to develop an imaginary critter right here in the studio...

One of our favorite books about beasts of mythology, Dragon World by Tamara Macfarlane is our resource, and Alessandra Fusi's illustrations are sure to scare us! Dinosaur bones may give us clues...

Aug 20: Let us be a Horse Whisperer

Many children tell me that they want to be with horses, all of the time! I remember my daughter wanting a horse – and she would often relate that horses gallop, rear their hind legs, kick and nicker! (Yes, she even acted like a horse sometimes!) When approaching horses, I feel always a squeal of happiness would sound out in our voices!

As artists, for us to develop a sense of horse takes time! This morning's workshop is a start to do just that! Experiences matter... and we shall learn some facts about horses that will help us form a valuable base for understanding their needs, behaviors, and abilities! It is important.

Let's be open-minded and attentive, too, to new methods of natural horse training. Many women are in the forefront as trainers.

Today, as artists – as we draw and paint – we'll take in the horse's body language (as this is how they communicate with us). Think – if you become a "horse whisperer" – how do you want to behave?

Here's to Autumn Morning and Poco – our family's two horse persons, with us some years ago and yet they remain so close to our hearts! Experiences, truly sterling.

Miss Lani's "go to" handbook, How to Think Like a Horse by Cherry Hill, is a favorite resource for us. We are going to read, paint, read some more! Our goal – to learn to be a "horse whisperer" artist.

Aug 26: Good Antennae: Butterflies — Forms of Beauty

As you see when school concludes, we will be surprised by all outdoors! Butterflies. Yes! They are happy creatures, we are told, so let's find out! It's a surprise what we are going to create for them. READY?

Aug 27: Birds, Flowers, and Bees

Let's focus on being in a meadow. Poppies sway... a gentle breeze... the sun is bright. The abundance of joy at Honeyfield Farm in Norwich, and Crossroads Farm in Post Mills—like Monet's gardens at Giverny. We are in the midst of what every artist that studies Impressionism would love.... We shall create "Tussie Mussies" like Tasha Tudor, our Vermont artist, taught us and to sketch our result as well. Hmmmm!