

MORE INFO ON ART CLASSES

A note from Art Instructor/Owner Tricia

My teaching style is dynamic with lots of varied content, with a focus on project-based individual development. I try to make what I introduce relevant to what my students are currently passionate about. As an example, a lot of my students of all ages are into character design, so I inject a lot of that, with a mix of modern and classical pedagogy. I use gesture style drawing as our building block of understanding form, mark making, and dimensionality, as well as letting go of the “hard perfect line” that is the first inclination of some beginners. Instead I teach to build your drawing or painting in layers, each one successively more clarified/developed. Sometimes we leave our work raw, sometimes we use it as a basis for further layering/final creations. One day we might draw from life with conte like in Renaissance times, one day I might be demo-ing how to create lighting effects with an iPad. I find the more different content, mediums, and project ideas I can show, the better my students can explore and connect with what they find most interesting. I try to make each moment count in class, and although socializing is encouraged, we make sure to stay productive and as motivated as possible to use our time together wisely.



There's a lot of independence. **Although I do lecture, demo, and display art history references frequently, the majority of class time is devoted to students working on their own projects. Sometimes the majority of students are working on the same thing, if I've introduced something specific that they want to explore, but often everyone is working on their own thing. I talk individually with each student to see where they're at with their art, what they like, styles they're into, and I show them projects ideas or pertinent artists/art that's inspirational. Then, we decide what direction they want to go in, and I gather and give them all the materials. Then I let them work and circulate to give feedback to individuals the entire class.**

Members get free entry to special events/drawing from life/community stuff we do, **art supply raffles, and free studio time during the week! The member per class price is slightly discounted from the drop-in price, and members get their own personal portfolio to keep their ongoing work in.**

Outline of a typical class:

- 1) Students get out their projects or I pass out/demo a warmup or show a certain artist or other cool trend that's going on. I may demo on the chalkboard, on a specific type of paper or canvas, or I may use my ipad and image share onto the tv.**
- 2) Unless we're doing something together to learn it, students branch off on either new or ongoing work.**
- 3) I rotate constantly giving individual help and feedback. Most of my kids who are members and even my frequent drop ins like to work on larger scale projects that they work on for multiple weeks, but there's always one-day options as well.**
- 4) I have a lot of different mediums available and love to get the kids excited about new options and materials! Some people like to bring their own pencil boxes or supplies, but I can provide any supply you may need, or if given a heads up, have it for the next week.**

My credentials:

My undergraduate degree is in Studio Art with a minor in Education. I went to Mary Washington which has a small but well respected art department, and their education department is famous for its quality. I received my Virginia Art Instructor License in PreK-12 Visual Arts in 2008 and I have renewed it and stayed active on it since then.

I then taught for 8 years at Massaponax High School, where I was a leader in the department and ran yearly international field trips, the National Art Honor Society, the Art Club, and tons of other community outreach projects. I taught Art 1-4, helped with AP Art, and taught all media including Ceramics and Textiles

I have a Masters of Science in Education Technology and Media Design from Full Sail University, a place known for its collaboration of technology and art (lots of people from Pixar and various game design companies went there, for example)

I have taught private classes and paint parties weekly since 2015 when I opened up Figure 8 Ink Studios. I love teaching all ages and finding what speaks to each person on their journey with Art. We also do a big annual kids Summer camp. I believe Art is a lifelong positive influence on all people, and I respect whatever goals anyone has to include it in their lives. It is my honor to be able to connect people to the Art world in a safe and supportive environment where they can find and be themselves.