

# INSTRUCTOR BIOS • DAC Winter/Spring COURSES

**ERICA ALEXANDER**, flutist and music educator, has taught flute in private and group settings for over 20 years. She has a Masters in Music Education (MME) and all-level music and Suzuki certifications. Marina Raye, Mary Youngblood and Carlos Nakai are among her Native American flute influences. Meditation is an important part of her life. She has studied with Jeff Brantley (director of the Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Program at Duke), through the Insight Meditation Center in Barre, MA and, most recently, with Mary Love May at UNC. She leads workshops and flute circles on Native American-style flute. Her flute studio, Open Wings Flute School, offers private lessons which incorporate Suzuki method and meditation.

**CHARLES PHILIP BROOKS**, born in North Carolina, studied in New England in the studio of highly respected Boston School authority, Paul Ingretson and with the renowned American Barbizon painter, Dennis Sheehan. He is primarily a landscape painter, focusing on the Landscape of the southeastern United States. His work incorporates elements of impressionism and is firmly rooted in the American Barbizon/Tonalist tradition of landscape painting. He works out of the tradition established by such artists as George Inness, AlexanderWyant, Bruce Crane, John Frances Murphy, Dwight William Tyron, and North Carolina's own Elliott Daingerfield. Further influences include the painters Eugene Boudin and Charles-Francois Daubigny, as well as many other painters of the French Barbizon School. As Artist-in-Residence for the Arts Center at the Imperial Centre in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Mr. Brooks works with a select group of students in his atelier-style teaching studio. Students are admitted on an ongoing basis.

**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](http://www.lisacreedartist.com).

**ANNETTE DE FERRARI** is a visual artist, graphic designer and illustrator. Her visual art encompasses both representational and non-representational works, has been exhibited throughout the eastern US, and is included in numerous private collections. She received her training at PAFA. Samples of her work can be seen at [annettedeferrari.net](http://annettedeferrari.net) and [deferrari.design.com](http://deferrari.design.com). Her teaching philosophy is that each person has a unique way of perceiving the world and an individual voice to discover, and so she sees teaching as helping students develop skills along with finding their own creative paths.

**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.

**GEORGE GENSIC'S** artistic path has led him from Indiana metal master and artisan sculptor to North Carolina portraiture and fine art painting. An award winning artist, George's works have been shown in Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area galleries and in numerous local, regional and national competitive exhibits. George lives in Durham with his wife and daughters.

**ANNE GREGORY** graduated from Duke with degrees in English and Art. She studied painting under Vernon Pratt whose teaching style set the standard for mentoring students in their individual artistic pursuits. For the past 12 years she has taught art in many area venues including Durham Public Schools, North Carolina Museum of Art, IBM, and the Durham Arts Council. Her paintings have been exhibited throughout the area in group and solo shows. Next spring Anne will be among a group of NC artists traveling to Rabat to collaborate with Moroccan artists.

**LASHON HAYES** has had a love for music her entire life. She started singing at the age of 2 and hasn't stopped since. Miss Hayes is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. She is a licensed Kindermusik educator and co-owner of Step By Step Music Group. Lashon has had the honor of teaching music in the public schools system and privately for over 10 years. Her two greatest passions are music and children thus leading her to Kindermusik. Miss Hayes has been teaching Kindermusik classes since March 2009 and has loved every minute of it.

**BRENDA MILLER HOLMES** is a muralist and art educator that has been facilitating collaborative community mural projects throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and Internationally for the last eight years and has studied and worked under Master Muralist Susan Cervantes of Precita Eyes Muralists for the last seven years. She is passionate about sharing this unifying collaborative creative experience. Beyond mural making, her art teaching experience spans a variety of media and she has led workshops with people of all ages, from toddlers through adults.

**LAWRENCE (LARRY) JONES** is a freelance web designer, photographer and marketing/graphics professional with 20

years of experience. From 2005 to 2007 he lived in England and traveled Europe photographing Spain, Italy, France, Scotland, and Amsterdam and around the Baltic Sea. In 2006, he taught darkroom and digital photography to high school students at The American School, England near London. He has been teaching children, teens, and adults short courses in photography for 5 years. He has a BA in Advertising/Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**GREGG KEMP** studied art at Richmond Professional Institute and has been making his own pinhole cameras and pinhole photographs since 1972. For 12 years, he maintained the "Pinhole Visions" website and published the electronic weekly newsletter "Pinhole News" featuring news and events about pinhole art and artists. He has exhibited his pinhole photographs locally, nationally, and internationally. He is also a founding member of "Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day", a day where people around the world - novice and pro, young and old, are invited to make a pinhole photo and join together in an web exhibition. In 2011, more than 3300 people from 70 countries participated in pinhole day.

**LUCARTHA KOHLER** lives in Durham, North Carolina, and has been working with glass since 1974. She has lectured, taught and frequently exhibited her work in the US and abroad. In addition to numerous grants, fellowships and awards, Kohler has published two books, *Glass a Medium for Artists*, and *Women Working in Glass*. [www.lucarthkohler.com](http://www.lucarthkohler.com).

**LAURA KORCH** received her B.F.A. from Eastern Michigan University in Ceramics. Most recently, she was the Ceramics Studio Manager for the Ann Arbor Art Factory. Prior to that, she completed a year-long apprenticeship with John Glick. Laura's work has been shown in many galleries in the Ann Arbor/Detroit area. Her pieces are mostly functional and feature carved drawings and child-like markings. In June 2007, Laura attended a two-week course at Penland School of Crafts, which brought her to North Carolina. She now resides in Durham.

**BECCA HULETT**, longtime Durhamite, was first introduced to clay as a 4 year old. As she grew up, her interested 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** is an interdisciplinary artist who recently moved to Durham after living and teaching for ten years in Ithaca, New York, and Vermont. Originally, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he studied sculpture, life drawing, and watercolor, receiving his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 1991. He has taught art at The College of William and Mary, Dartmouth College, Colby College, and Cornell University. He is

the past recipient of a Constance Saltonstall Foundation Grant in 2006. His artwork has been featured in the recent international artist' book tour Arcadia Id Est and Ghost Trees and Crosscuts: Intersections Between the Forest and History, a one person exhibition at Lawrence University in 2006 and Terrains of Absence at Wells College in 2008. He is a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow for his current work entitled This was now and the ghost buildings of Terrains of Absenc exhibited in 2010. He does site specific work to document the loss of old growth and uses a rephotographing technique to reveal losses in the architectural fabric of our cities through urban renewal while creating a spectral slippage between the past and our current sense of time and place. He is currently a North Carolina Arts Fellow.

**LÉBRANDI JOHNSON** has been dancing since she was 5 years old. She has a B.S. in Education and Business Management, from NC State University. During her college career, she joined DanceVisions, a university sponsored dance team focusing on African dance and La Raza de mil Colores, a multicultural dance team focusing on Latin dance. She was also a guest member of the Duke University Dance Ensemble and was a performer in a new piece choreographed by renowned choreographer Ronald K. Brown of the Evidence Dance Company. The piece, entitled Common Ground, was showcased at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. After graduating and acquiring a full-time position in Accounting, she began teaching part time at Ninth Street Dance, Sertoma Arts Center and the Durham Arts Council. Recently, she was invited to NYC to perform for Madonna's Material Girl Launch Party at Macy's! She is currently teaching Adult Hip-Hop, Hip Hop in Heels/ Sexy Stiletto, AfroFusion, Inspirational Dance/Aerobics, Zumba and Kids dance classes.

**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](http://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 and the Carolina Nature Photographers Association.

**KRISTEN LINEBERGER** is an artist, a printmaker, and a native of North Carolina. She received her BFA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon graduating, she co-founded a small collective of visual artists who work and have studios on Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. While creating work in multiple mediums, she usually includes printmaking in some fashion in most of her work.

**ASHLEY MATTHEIS** moved to Durham in 2005 and began learning to make jewelry shortly after her arrival. Jewelry started

out as a hobby but it quickly became a passion. Completely self-taught as a jewelry artist, Ashley is proof that creative expression and excellence are available to people of all skill levels. Ashley is currently attending UNC studying in the Humanities, with the end goal of attaining a PhD, and teaching. She is looking forward to empowering others with the skills to realize their creative visions.

**JEN MATZEN** is a self-taught jewelry designer and metalsmith who has been creating art in various forms for over 40 years. She is a co-founder of the Durham Crafty Market and sells her work there and elsewhere under the name JM design. She loves the creative process, appreciates minimalism and is inspired by relationships, spiritualism, nature, science, and architecture as well as ancient and contemporary art + design. She is a former legal aid lawyer, clinical law professor and environmental and human rights advocate. She lives with her husband and children in Durham.

**SARA MCCREARY** earned a MS in Mass Comm. at the VCU Brandcenter, which led her to Durham where she works as a freelance Art Director and ceramics teacher. She has been working with ceramics for more than 10 years and enjoys sharing her skills with students, both young and old, art and function and very much believes in the importance of almost anything beautiful and handmade.

**DEBRA RAMSEY** is a three-time winner of "Best Female Dance Instructor in The Nation," California Swing Hall of Fame Inductee, World Swing Dance Champion, Two-time Swing Dance Humanitarian Award winner and choreographer.

**BARBARA ROHDE** received her art degree from Buffalo State University College. She began her art career teaching in up-state New York public schools, and continued teaching and more art training at Michigan State University. She has taught at DAC for several years and paints full time in her Durham home studio. Barb is a member of the Watercolor Society of North Carolina, and sells her work locally and on-line at [www.barbararohde.com](http://www.barbararohde.com). In the Triangle her paintings can frequently be seen at Bull City Art and Frame Company, Durham Arts Council shows, and annual North Carolina Watercolor Society Regional Shows.

**SAGIRA** began belly dancing with Donna Whitley of Greenville, NC, in 2008. She later studied the American tribal style under Kaitlyn of New Bern, NC, in 2009. While residing in Greenville, NC, Sagira helped form and create the belly dancing troupe Naj that consisted of other skilled belly dancers in the area. Naj performed at various events in the Eastern North Carolina area, such as Bellies for Benefit and The International Festival/Piratefest. Since relocating to the triangle, Sagira continues her studies in belly dance with Hannan Sultan.

**LAURA SCHNEIDER** graduated with Honors from the University of Florida earning a BFA in Graphic Design with a Minor in Art History. She also has a Masters Degree in Art Education from FSU. Schneider is active at the Penland School of Crafts and has work in the school's private collection. Currently, she teaches Digital Media for Durham Public Schools and she believes that with a good teacher, any student can realize their artistic vision.

**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.

**MIKE SONNICHSEN** grew up in Puerto Rico, unconsciously absorbing the qualities of tropical light and color. While studying architecture at Virginia Tech, he participated in the Mountain Lake Workshops and worked alongside John Cage, Ray Kass, and others. It was also there that he was bitten by the printmaking bug and eventually chose to pursue art rather than architecture. He gained more screenprinting experience in Seattle at Two Dimensions printing now-famous Pearl Jam posters. He practiced Japanese woodblock printing and calligraphy while living in Japan for three years. After studying lithography at the Tamarind Institute, he received his MFA from the University of New Mexico. It was there he began experimental color photogram work in earnest, created light driven sculptures, and continued to refine his printmaking skills. He has shown work nationally including a solo show "Of Two Minds" at 311 Gallery in Raleigh and has been featured in numerous print and web journals. He currently teaches an enthusiastic crop of student printmakers and manages printmaking and photo facilities for the Art Department at UNC Chapel Hill.

**DEBORAH SOSOWER** is a printmaker who currently has a studio at Goldenbelt in downtown Durham. A Durham native, she received her BA in Fine Art at Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia, PA, and her Masters in Fine Art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Deborah's work includes poster-size silkscreen series and 4-8" intricate hand-printed woodblocks that focus on the subject of the body in pain and self-escape. Deborah has a passion for all things printmaking, including lithography, etching, silkscreen, relief and letterpress.

**LUCIANO SUAREZ** holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Miami and a Master's degree from Florida State University. He has studied with Bruce Holzman, Albert Koonce and José Costas. He has also performed in the master classes of Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Ricardo Iznaola, Yo Nishimura and Pepe Romero.

**ANTHONY ULINSKI** is a professional studio artist and furniture maker. His exhibitions include Blue Spiral Gallery (NC), John Elder Gallery (NYC), Gallery of Art and Design (NC), Smithsonian Craft Fair and Philadelphia Museum of Art craft fair. He has taught at Arrowmont (TN), Artspace (NC), Peter's Valley (NJ), Penland (NC) and more.

**JAMIE B. WOLCOTT** became addicted to poster making 20 years ago. She's a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, and has been making a living as a poster artist and illustrator for 15 years in New York City, working with many talented musicians including John Prine and Emmylou Harris. She and her family have relocated to North Carolina in search of space, oxygen and a good school for their daughter.