

William Forrester

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Visual Art

Residencies Offered:

MURALS (GRADES 4-10): Students will plan, design and execute a large mural using acrylic and latex house paint. Skills taught include composition, color theory and mixing, skilled brush work, translating photographic reference, seeing light and shadow, showing mass and volume and creating interesting texture.

FIGURE AND PORTRAIT DRAWING (GRADES 5-12): Developed and refined during 10 years of teaching art in New York City and my work with Vashon's Family Link, these art classes stress the basic observational and technical skills used in translating what we see into a carefully composed and executed drawing or painting. Whether drawing nature or something man-made such as a bicycle, students receive an art historical context for their project and learn a range of art vocabulary while critiquing their work.

CLAY AND WOOD LITERACY (GRADES 3-6): Developed during my years as a New York City art teacher and repeated with my 2016 Summer Day Camp time with the Union Gospel Mission, these fun projects are tactile, sequential and fundamental activities firing all the imaginative cylinders. Students are then guided to write about their creations, with the vocabulary generated by their sculptures. Interestingly shaped wood scraps from island woodworkers are used.

ART/SCIENCE: BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION (GRADES 6-12): Originally suggested by Julie Hanger at Family Link, and written by the Smithsonian Institution, this engaging two day lesson weaves together botanical knowledge, plant taxonomy and extinction, photography and carefully rendered botanical illustration. Students finish with an attractively bound notebook of their botanic research.

Teaching Experience:

In the summer of 2016 I taught at risk kids in White Center with the Union Gospel Mission. I have substituted in the Vashon and Highline School Districts since 2000, taught art at the Harbor School in 2010, taught drawing at The Science and Math Institute in Tacoma in 2012, taught watercolor with Vashon Allied Arts in 2015, taught art classes with Vashon School District's Family Link from 2010 to 2011, and taught drawing at The Thursday Night Drawing Session at the Grange Hall for the last eight years. I taught art in New York City Schools from 1988-1998.

Artist's Statement:

No moss grows on my artistic feet. I am of the persuasion that one has to explore new mediums and approaches to creative impulses. At this moment I am trying to appease the muse's beckonings of portraiture, random watercolors, silk banner painting, jigsaw puzzles and oil paintings. This can be draining, but it paradoxically keeps me young. After 30 years in various classrooms, I have found a fun, relaxed and humorous way to teach while also maintaining order, focus, and discipline. I have learned to speak clearly and respectfully to children. Adapting my own artistic explorations in the classroom has been a way of life for me in those 30 years.