

A Publication of the Maine Art Education Association

aeforme.com

October 2022

2022 FALL CONFERENCE

Members gathered in person once again this year to create, learn, share, and enjoy the beauty of both Haystack and Monson.

Projects displayed from the Tapestry Weaving workshop facilitated by Bobbie Tikens-Fisher

WELCOME BACK TO ARTMAKING!

The MAEA has many creative opportunities available for you and your students this year. Many of the opportunities are listed in this month's *Mixed Media* newsletter with many more events to be highlighted in the December issue. Welcome to our new *Mixed Media* newsletter editor, Megan McConagha! Thank you for joining our team and highlighting our personal and student successes this year. Please be certain to send your newsletter highlights to megan.mcconagha@ gmail.com as you progress through the year.

The MAEA looks forward to supporting you and your students as we move through the 2022-2023 school calendar year. Kicking off 2022, the MAEA Active Voting Board Members met in January to update the Maine Art Education Association's **Art Education Advisory Recommendation Brochure**. Please access this brochure as you, your students, and school research and maintain quality art education program suggestions as we return from pandemic years. If any of you are interested in becoming an Active Voting Board member, please reach out to one of the Board Members listed below.



Lynda Leonas, MAEA President

We are seeking nominations for all Elected Board Positions other than Past-President and President! President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Services positions are all becoming available to our current membership. We are also seeking one member at large to assist with the Nominations Committee! Please consider yourself and your fellow peers as essential members that can offer the Maine Art Education Association and our Maine students so many positives! If you are interested, you can review the Elected Leadership information here: **Responsibilities/Benefits doc.** Please reach out to me with your nominations at **President.MaineArtEd@gmail.com**!

Welcome back, enjoy your year, and let me know how we can support you as you engage in the world of art education this year!

Lynda

MAEA LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Mixed Media is the award-winning newsletter of the MAEA. It is sent to anyone interested in the MAEA, and shared on our website: aeforme.org. Please contact us for reprinting considerations.

Submissions for consideration can be submitted to the newsletter editor, Megan McConagha, at megan.mcconagha@gmail.com.

The opinions expressed in Mixed Media are those and only those of the authors and do not necessarily represent MAEA policies.

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MAEA CREATE ARTMAKING SATURDAYS

Join art educators throughout the State of Maine for artmaking on Saturdays! MAEA Create is an interest group that meets monthly and gives art teachers the opportunity to make art while socializing with colleagues.

We gather on the last Saturday of the month from 9:00 am to noon (dates may fluctuate due to major holidays and school calendars). We are going to attempt to meet in-person this year! Here's a look at the schedule so far:

October 29	Scarborough High School — Erin Landry Fowler
November 19 (not 26)	Sebago Home Studio — Evelyn Abrams
January 28	Great Falls Elementary, Gorham — Allie Rimkunas
February 25	TBD
March 25	TBD
April 29	Brunswick Junior High — Cory Bucknam
May 27	TBD

If you would like to host a Saturday morning meet-up in your classroom or home studio, please sign up on our shared calendar:

MAEA CREATE CALENDAR

MAEA BOARD Meetings

You are invited to our MAEA Board Meetings. They are held on the second Thursday of the month at the MEA offices in Augusta, unless otherwise noted. All MAEA members are encouraged to attend and become board members. Distance an issue? You can join in virtually via Zoom.

PROFESSIONAL Learning: Naea Webinar Series

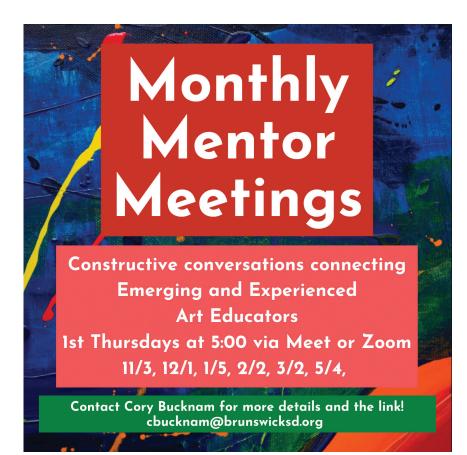
Since its inception in 2014, the NAEA webinar series continues to be an excellent professional learning resource for visual arts educators. We invite you to deepen your webinar experience by bundling related topics into a comprehensive package, as detailed below in this handout. After watching each archived webinar, a downloadable CEU certificate will be made available to you.

Search the Virtual Art Educator Monthly Webinars:



Use this QR Code or the button below to access the NAEA Bundled Webinar Google page.

LEARN MORE



TEACHING TRUTH, HOPE, AND CREATIVITY: HOW THE ARTS CAN DEEPEN CURRICULUM

November 5, 2022 8:45 am - 3:00 pm Thomas College 180 West River Road Waterville \$25 — includes lunch

Join us for this professional development opportunity to explore ways to use the arts to connect curriculum silos and make challenging content accessible. Robert Shetterly, a Maine artist and activist, will inspire us as he unveils his portrait of Representative Rachel Talbot Ross. Educators will have the opportunity to engage with a panel of AWTT portrait subjects as they discuss the issues that inspire their life's courageous work, activism, and imagination. Teachers who have used the curriculum lessons from *Americans Who Tell the Truth*



in their classes, or are familiar with other ways to integrate social justice into curriculum, will offer interactive workshops. In addition, there will be time to share ideas and build your network with fellow educators.

Those who register for the conference by October 18 will receive a free copy of either Portraits of Racial Justice or Portraits of Earth Justice at the event, the latest books from Americans Who Tell the Truth.

MORE | REGISTER

MAEA'S ANNUAL FALL MEMBERSHIP **EXHIBITION**

MAEA + MECA&D proudly present NEXUS: Intersection of Teaching + Learning:

Maine College of Art & Design 522 Congress Street, Portland

In-Person Opening: November 4, 2022 (First Friday) 4-6 pm

Exhibit: November 3-18, 2022

Artwork Drop-Off: Sunday, Oct. 30, 1-3 pm or Tuesday, Nov. 1, 3pm-5:30 pm

Artwork Pick-Up: Sunday, Nov. 20, 1-3 pm or Monday, Nov. 21, 3-5:30pm

Please submit one recent work ready to hang or display. 3-D work permitted. Volunteers needed for drop off and pick up.

Questions: email Samara Yandell at syandell@biddefordschools.me.



Artwork by Jackie Christie, MECA&D MAT '22

FALL CONFERENCE 2022 OUR 52ND ANNIVERSARY! INSPIRATION + CONNECTION AT HAYSTACK AND MONSON

After a two-year hiatus, we were finally able to gather again to enjoy artmaking, nature, and each other. We expanded our conference this year to include workshops in Monson as well as Haystack. Many thanks to the facilitators, conference chairs Brooke Holland and Anthony Lufkin, and the many volunteers who assisted, photographed, and shared their experiences!

















Pewter casting team facilitated by Siem van der Ven, second from right

PEWTER CASTING WITH SIMON 'SIEM' VAN DER VEN

by Heather O'Neil

In this weekend workshop we experimented with carving plaster and cuttle fish bones and pouring pewter directly into our molds to create small scale sculptures and jewelry. The process was extremely quick and gratifying, allowing the artist to create several identical pieces or one of a kind work. The materials could be recycled and used over and over again until the desired work was achieved. This class was a great way to learn an old art and could easily be taught in a high school setting.

TAPESTRY WEAVING WITH BOBBIE TILKENS-FISHER

by Christine Del Rossi

Luscious fibers that feel like a dream helped our fingers dance across looms to create tactile sculptural weavings. Each of us jumped into the process with the guidance of Bobbie Tilkens-Fisher, a weaver who started her creative journey on a toy "Melissa and Doug" loom. At first, we asked hesitantly, "can I do this? ... Is it OK to ...? "And our fearless fiber leader said, "Go for it!" We all learned what it meant to be a subversive weaver. We were blown away and inspired by the innovative wall hangings of our peers. Each time a new weaving was born, we would cheer and celebrate the baby weavings. Colors and textures inspired conversations - like which David Bowie outfit would look like

our weavings? (Google "sea slugs dressed like David Bowie") Chosen colors ranged from natural to vivid palettes telling abstract stories, including a few landscape-inspired motifs. Beyond over under, Tabby, words like Rya, Soumak, and Twining became part of our new weaving language. Inspired conversations allowed for healing laughter and camaraderies that were missed the past few years.

Respect was "woven" into our experience as Bobbie shared her artistic weavings inspired by the people she loved and lost, equating each of her breathtaking weavings with a unique personality and bond with another special human. We all healed and reconnected with our inner artist with joy and play. Twining our hearts together, we will hope to continue to develop our unique fiber artistry. A visitor to the fiber studio said our weavings were way "girthier" than they imagined! More laughter rose to the surface and cushioned all the blows of the past.







DIGITAL FABRICATION WITH JAMES RUTTER

by Jessica Jones

In the digital fabrication workshop, we learned some creative applications of digital fabrication technologies, specifically with the laser cutter and digital design software programs. We were all in awe, and our artist-teacher brains began to process all the possibilities that digital fabrication had to offer. What materials could we use? What about glass? What about slate? What about rubber? What about a corkboard?

On Saturday, James reviewed the process of taking an image and manipulating it in Gimp and Inkspace to create a path that could successfully communicate to the laser printer. I was able to translate my first image, a drawing from my sketchbook, into something that could be etched into a small

FALL CONFERENCE CONTINUED

piece of wood. Others pumped out works in wood and paper, and even glass. However, my second image did not translate to the machine. I spent most of the morning on the computer and felt slightly deflated. By late afternoon, I got the hang of things and started to see the fruits of my labor. I believe perseverance is a studio habit of mind.



On Sunday, we had our final images ready and enjoyed laser printing our final projects and learning about the 3-D printing process. While cleaning up and laying out all of our projects, the philosophical aspects of digital fabrication became the topic of our conversations.

Digital fabrication bridges the gaps between the arts and technology. This course has altered how I think about art and how this process opens new paths into the future.

- Ninette Fenlason

Overall this workshop was filled with inspirational and informative conversations and discussions, and we gained some beginning knowledge on foundational concepts behind this emerging new art form—the perfect recipe for satisfying the artist and the art educators' soul.

CERAMICS: FORM, & SURFACE WITH CAROLYN BROWN

by Connie Hartley-Bagley

Carolyn Brown's Haystack workshop was a brilliant mix of fun and learning. She focused on surface texture and forms using a variety of stamps, texture plates and rolling pins, silkscreen prints, making our own printing plates, and carving.



Using a cone 6 clay body #65 and underglazes, we



explored various mediums and techniques using our imaginations.

Carolyn brought a ton of tools and toys to play with and encouraged us with her enjoyable wit, and years of knowledge. Everyone learned something new, and learned from each other bringing our own styles and artistic talents to share.

Carolyn provided just enough lecture and demonstrations to springboard our way to working on our own clay pieces. Who knew you could put underglazes through a silkscreen onto paper and use those anytime in the future ? Or simply paint underglazes on paper to use later.

Going home with our box full of work to be fired, we were grateful for the camaraderie and expanding our clay skills.

WOOD ENGRAVING WITH LISA PIXLEY IN MONSON

by Crystal Priestley

Monson Maine is an absolutely beautiful site to recharge and reinvigorate your creative energies. The facilities at Monson Arts are clean and modern, while still maintaining the feeling of a small, old, and well established part of the community. The studios and accommodations are on or very near lake Hebron, and there is a serene and restful atmosphere. Food is provided by the fabulous Quarry, and the owners are cheerful, friendly, and excel at their craft.

The engraving studio, facilitated by Lisa Pixley, was bright and right on the water. Lisa introduced us to the world of the engraver, sharing vintage books, images, and personal knowledge about an art form



that began with the letterpress, and was taken over by modern printing methods. Lisa is working to revive the art, and may be offering more workshops at her home in the future.

For the duration of the workshop, Lisa loaned us a set of engravers, provided sketching materials, maple wood disks to engrave on, as well as ink and paper to print our work. Many of us came in expecting to be carving away swathes of wood, and ended up working with the most delicate of lines and textures. Every mark you make in the wood will likely show, no matter how small or thin. This allows for amazing details to be sure, but the wealth of textures and contrast possible, could not be fully explored in just one short weekend. Most of us were so enamored with the marks we were creating that we almost missed meal times, and stayed late into the night in our studio to get just a bit more done.

Lisa is incredibly well versed in her artwork and its history, and her style of instruction allows for flexibility and thought provoking conversation. This workshop was definitely one of a kind, unexpected, and an invaluable experience. Monson was the perfect setting, peaceful and inspiring, and the small group was just perfect. Thank you Lisa and the MAEA for the unforgettable experience!



FALL CONFERENCE CONTINUED

RELIEF PRINTING: PLAYING WITH LAYERS WITH HOLLY BERRY

by Constance Panetski

The weekend at Haystack did not disappoint once again. The printmaking workshop with Holly Berry was very informative and enriching. We learned in depth the processes in which to make relief prints and exploring layering of colors through the reduction cut method.



Holly was terrific. Her demonstrations and talks were helpful yet succinct. Each of us were challenged to make an image and discover various possibilities when overprinting and mixing up layer order and orientation. I don't know how she was able to get around to assist all of us, but she did!

The class ad access to many materials beyond the suggested list for collaging and stamping interesting relief surfaces. We engaged in the process individually and as a group. It was really interesting to see the variety of subject matter and each of our unique styles with this medium.

I would wholeheartedly recommend taking a workshop with Holly and exploring relief printing as creative expression.



CERAMICS: WHEEL-THROWING WITH JEMMA GASCOINE (IN MONSON)

Jemma Gascoine founded Monson Pottery seven years ago, which is a teaching and retail venue for functional and sculptural ceramics. She led workshop participants in a ceramics project that began throwing small pots, candeling them and then firing them over-night, glazing them on Saturday morning, then raku firing them.

MIXED METALS WITH MAGGI BLUE

by Libbie Winslow

Mixed metal participants came to this Haystack workshop with a variety of jewelry-making techniques and skills. Our instructor, Maggie Blue, brought an endless supply of materials to this workshop for the participants to work with. We were also asked to bring small personal treasures to make into a piece that would be treasured forever. Maggi assisted in the jewelry studio where participants made several beautiful jewelry pieces using cold connection

Thanks again for such an amazing time. You all made my first teaching experience one that I will always remember and cherish. So. Much. Fun! I am so proud of how well everyone did and how much amazing jewelry was made.

— Maggi Blue





I FALL CONFERENCE CONTINUED



LARGE-SCALE PRINTS WITH Alexis IAMMARINO

This workshop was anchored in interdisciplinary exploration. Alexis shared several approaches to creating large-scale prints for fabric and paper with DIY printingpresses. Using cardboard, mixed-media and textile materials, the students created large collagraph plates and block prints combined with photo references with painted monotypes. Demos focused on technique-building and material exploration to encourage more improvisatory approaches to composition. This will draw from sensibilities of dance, movement and structured improvisations found in music that encourages collaborative art making or to enliven + inspire independent practices.

CARVED ALABASTER WITH ANNE ALEXANDER

Anne Alexander, who creates organic form work in carved wood, carved stone, and modeled clay, introduced students to different carving techniques for alabaster, including sawing and rasps. She also demonstrated different finishing processes, including sanding, polishing, and waxing, to bring out the veins and luster of this beautiful stone. Working toward the final piece, students either abstracted from nature or became inspired by the original shape of the stone.





Thanks to all who submitted a workshop summary and shared their photos. And enormous thanks, once again, to the facilitators, studio volunteers, and conference chairs, Brooke and Anthony!





MAEA SUMMER RETREAT 2022 PILGRIM LODGE IN COBBOSSEECONTEE LAKE

by Allie Rimkunas

Our second annual summer retreat at Pilgrim Lodge was attended by 31 enthusiastic artists and educators from as far away as Pennsylvania and California! The weather was warm and sunny with lots of time spent swimming and paddling in the lake. Many folks cranked on making art while others relaxed on porches and talked of their work, schools, families, and whatever came up in conversation. The table of Auction items grew throughout our time and eventually filled 5 tables bringing in over \$800!

On our final evening, we enjoyed time around the fire pit with s'mores, laughs, and a few persistent mosquitoes. This retreat was the perfect time and place to relax after another challenging year of teaching. Many thanks to all of our participants and we hope to see you all again next summer on the shores of Lake Cobbosseecontee.



SAVE THE DATE! July 7-9, 2023 MAEA Summer Retreat 2023 Pilgrim Lodge



2022 QUIMBY FELLOWSHIP







Samara Yandell, the 2022 Quimby Fellowship awardee, attended a two-week session at Haystack in early August with Midwestern ceramic artist and educator Chandra Debuse. Her reflections below:

December 2019: Hmmm, I think I'll apply to that Haystack scholarship through the MAEA, that could be fun!

February 2020: OMG I can't believe that I was awarded the Quimby Foundation Fellowship — I'm so excited (cue happy tears!)

> April 2020: This COVID-19 thing is looking pretty serious, I hope they don't cancel Haystack...

> > May 2020: OMG Haystack is canceled

(cue sad tears!) Oh well, hopefully I can go next year!

May 2021: Argh! Haystack is still not opening, I'll never get to go (cue more sad tears.)

February 2022: Fingers crossed, just applied for my ceramics session. I hope they don't cancel again!

August 2022: After much anticipation (and several negative COVID tests) my two week session with the amazing Chandra Debuse at Haystack was

To the MAEA, the Quimby Family Foundation, and Haystack, thank you from the bottom of my heart for this incredible opportunity. The skills and lessons I learned will stay with me always. I look forward to giving back to the MAEA so that future art educators in Maine can benefit from the support of our professional association. – Samara Yandell

everything I hoped it would be. I learned new techniques using materials that pushed me out of my comfort zone. I was able to dive deeply into mid range porcelain and explore a more illustrative style of work that I know my students will LOVE! Unlimited access to studio time (and healthy food!) gave me a much needed respite from the past challenging few years as a middle school teacher. I met incredible teachers and artists who inspired me, challenged me, and made me remember why being an art teacher is my dream job — just in time to return to Biddeford Middle School with a whole new set of skills to share.



JOIN THE TEAM! BOARD MEMBER + OFFICER OPENINGS

We are seeking nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Services. We are also seeking one member at large to assist with the Nominations Committee in preparing a slate of interested parties. Please consider yourself and your fellow peers as essential members that can offer the MAEA and our Maine students so many positives!

The two-year term shall begin July 1, 2022 and run through June 30, 2024. Candidates for office must be members in good standing who have held active membership in the association during the previous two years. The election will be held in May of 2023.

If interested, please contact MAEA President Lynda Leonas president.mainearted@ gmail.com



PHOTO TEACHERS INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

by Jennie Driscoll

This group will have the opportunity to meet online to share our many student successes and the challenges of teaching photography in the wet darkroom and digitally.

This group will provide an opportunity to make connections with other art educators and learn about our many creative approaches to teaching young people photography. There will be a couple of opportunities to gather in person this year.

Zoom meetings will be on Wednesday afternoons @3:30PM (see schedule, right) and a link will be emailed the day before.

Please let me know if you are interested in hosting our group at your school. I need those who are interested in joining at the PMA to see the exhibit to RSVP to me so I can get you on a free admission list. Here is the tentative schedule: Please email me, Jennie Driscoll, at jdriscoll@ brunswicksd.org to join this interest group.

October 19 (Wednesday): 3:30 Zoom

October 22 (Saturday): PMA Exhibit— Presence 10:00 am

November 9 (Wednesday): Zoom

November 19 (Saturday): Photogram Workshop at BHS 10:00 am

January 18 (Wednesday): 3:30 Zoom

February 11 (Saturday): TBD in person workshop

March 15 (Wednesday): 3:30 Zoom

- MEA SHOW IS BACK -YOUTH ART MONTH

Opening Sunday March 12, 2023 11:00 - 1:00 pm (noon presentations) Maine Education Association Headquarters, Augusta

Teachers who are both MEA (Maine Education Association) and MAEA (Maine Art Education Association) members may submit one piece of student artwork to celebrate Youth Art Month. The artwork will be generously framed by the MEA and will hang at the MEA Headquarters in Augusta. Many legislators, MEA employees, and other visitors who go to the headquarters really enjoy viewing the student artwork. Families enjoy the art opening reception and appreciate the beautifully framed artwork that is returned to them after the show (the following November). This is a great way to showcase what we do.

MEA will accept 30 eligible works of student art on a first-come sign-up basis. Length + width cannot exceed 30 inches.

For more info, please contact Suzanne Goulet at sgoulet@aos92.org or click below for details:

APPLICATIONS FOR SAL CLASS OF 2023 NOW OPEN!

School for ART LEADERS

at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Application Deadline: December 2, 2022 Notification Date: by January 31, 2023

LEARN MORE

TAPESTRY WEAVING WORKSHOP – MAEA DISCOUNT!

Friday, November 11, 2022 (Veteran's Day) 10 am – 2 pm or 5:30pm - 9:30 pm Thomaston, ME 04861

Bobbie Tilkens-Fisher, who taught Weaving at Haystack at the Fall Conference (see page 6), is offering a Tapestry weaving workshop in Thomaston next month. In this workshop, students will learn (or review) the basics: fibers, assembling a loom, warping, stitches and knots, shapes, space and finishing techniques. We will create woven wall hangings.

- Students of all levels welcome
- Feel free to bring snacks/beverages
- No shoes in the studio
- Masks optional (unless you are not vaxed)
- You must climb one set of stairs to enter studio (above the garage)

For more information, click the button to the right or text/email Bobbie at 267-237-5413 or bobbie@athomemodern.com.



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NAEA Convention

Join visual arts, design, and media arts educators April 13–15 in San Antonio for this premier professional learning experience.

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