



MIXED MEDIA

October 2019

A publication of the Maine ART Education Association



2019
Fall Conference
Haystack
RECAP

Cory Bucknam's fabulously felted flower from the MAEA 2019 Fall Conference at Haystack, see page 6.



MESSAGE from the President

Lisa Ingraham

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Community & Service

I have recently been asked how I am settling in to the MAEA presidency. It has been a sometimes frantic, always rewarding time that I realize is going really fast! When I stop for a moment to reflect on this initial experience, our always growing organization, and the incredible people that make up our profession I am grateful. (I know I am probably supposed to save that word for our next newsletter, but...)

This edition of Mixed Media focuses on both our vibrant community of artist educators and the service we all give to the MAEA and our

colleagues with the common goal of bringing the best of the visual arts to – and out of! - our students.

Thank you to all those who organized and submitted their photos and recaps from our Fall Conference at Haystack (see page 6), shared their artwork at our member show at MECA (see page 11), and inspired this moment of gratitude through their service to their students (see *2019 Maine 200 Pumpkin Installation* on page 10). (I'll think of something else to be grateful for in November ;)

Enjoy!

MAEA Board

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lisa.ingraham@msad59.org

PRESIDENT ELECT – Lynda Leonas

lleonas@auburnschl.edu

SECRETARY – Heidi O'Donnell

heidiaemaine@gmail.com

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johnsonm@westbrookschoools.org

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hope_lord@maranacook.com

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sgoulet@aos92.org

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Art in the Heart – Sue Shapiro

sshapiro@rsu87.org

Downeast – Lisa Marin

mavey2_2000@yahoo.com

gusta 30 membahs – Shalimar Poulin

arted4all@gmail.com

hARTrocks – Charlie Johnson

aht.tchr@gmail.com

Northern pARTners – Beth Ann Cummings

bcummings@msad45.net

The Mindful Art Room

A Visit with MECA's Master of Arts in Teaching Candidates

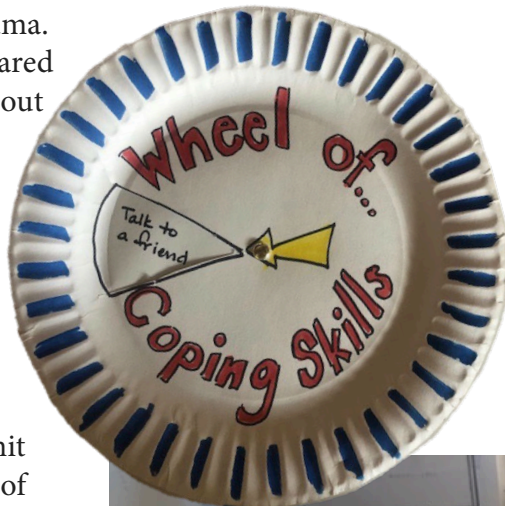
Photos by RACHEL SOMERVILLE

Assistant Professor of Art Education, MECA

I was so happy to be invited by Rachel Somerville to meet MECA's MAT students and share the practice of mindfulness from my art room with them. Mindfulness is not just another buzzword. It's a big topic that encompasses the benefits of using our senses as a means of paying close attention, and how these activities can improve the lives and academic achievement of students experiencing trauma. While I was there I also shared MAEA swag and talked about the importance of finding and maintaining professional connections.

I loved meeting the MAT students, and making mindful glitter bottles with them. It's nice to know there is no age limit on the engagement power of glitter!

~Lisa Ingraham



Rachel Somerville's students creating mindful glitter bottles with me following a Mindfulness presentation.

Art Teachers Create

September Report & October Invitation

by JODI THOMAS
Art Teacher, Thornton Academy



Thank you to our September host, Lynn Bustard, for a fun and productive artmaking day at Lawrence High School! The donuts were amazing and the participants were busy drawing,

printing, painting, and felting! In attendance were: Lynn Bustard, Lisa Ingraham, Lori Spruce, Stephanie Leonard, Lisa Wheeler, and Jodi Thomas.



The next Art Teacher Create will be hosted by Lori Spruce on October 26th at her home in Lamoine. You can RSVP to Lori lspruce@breweredu.org or Jodi jodi.thomas@thorntonacademy.org.

If you'd like to host an upcoming Art Teachers Create, please contact Jodi Thomas. We are looking for hosts for two more meetings in 2019: November 23rd and December 14th.



Registration is open for the 2020 NAEA National Convention!

WWW.NAEA20.ORG



March 26–28

Upcoming Events & Items of Note

MAEA YAM @ MEA

The Maine Education Association will again host the MAEA Youth Art Month Student Show at their offices in Augusta! The artwork will be on view from February through November, and will include a celebration on Sunday, March 8, 2020. There are still a few spots available to MAEA-MEA members. If you would like to participate in this show, email me at lisa.ingraham@msad59.org.



VPA STANDARDS REVIEW

The Maine DOE is beginning the standards review process for the Visual and Performing

Arts. Public hearings are scheduled for October 23rd in room 103 at the Cross Building, 11 Sewell Street in Augusta. If you are unable attend this hearing you may send written comments by 5PM on November 8, 2019 to Standards Review at sis.doe@maine.gov, or mail to Beth Lambert, 23 SHS Station, Augusta, ME 04333. For more information follow this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/maine/cu5lemq6y0-1320449?e=8fbbbe640c>

MAEA AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Know an art teacher that inspires? Consider nominating them for an MAEA Award. Nominations are due by the first Friday in January. Nomination forms and more information can be found here:

<http://www.aeforme.org/member-recognitions.html>

Fall Conference at Haystack

Highlights and Workshop Reports



Two views of Haystack. Photo L by Heidi O'Donnell and R by Kimberly Medsker.



Name badges by Carolyn Brown invited attendees to dive into creativity on their arrival. Photo by Heidi O'Donnell.



A Haystack staple, strawberry shortcake is an annual favorite of the fall conference. Photo by Heidi O'Donnell.

Read on for reports from each of the workshop offerings from our 2019 Fall Conference at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. Thank you to all the volunteer photographers and reporters for sharing your experiences.

PLEIN AIR

The plein air oil painting workshop at Haystack was a productive and memorable one! We were lucky enough to have fantastic weather for our outdoor art-making, and helpful feedback from facilitator Cooper Dragonette. Cooper's message

*"The struggle is real
... real worth it."*

to us on Friday that "value does all the work and color gets all the credit" was an a-ha moment, and after a brief but inspiring slide lecture we headed down to the rocks below the flagpole to begin painting. Over the course of the workshop

we got to paint at two more nearby locations with equally stunning ocean views, and each of us at least began several landscape

paintings (or in Tim's case, sgraffittings). With a focus on creating correct values in our

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Plein Air participants used the beautiful landscape at Haystack as their inspiration. Photo by Hevia Paxson.

landscapes over exact colors, the resulting works from the group were diverse in our approaches to color, especially for painting the same locations in the same weather and lighting. It was a challenge to resolve paintings to a point of completion in the one weekend and to navigate drying times with oil paints. Next time, perhaps we will have time for French Easel Relay Races.

~Cynthia Taylor,
Lake Region School District

ENAMELING 101

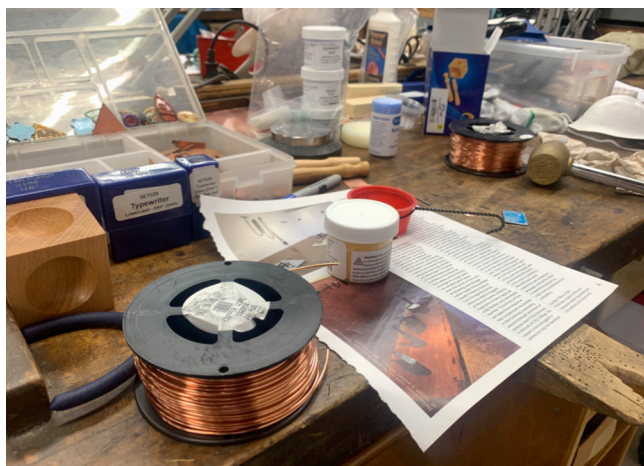
Q: What do the smell of burning hair, and the buzz of burning questions have in common?

A: They could both be found in the Enameling Workshop at Haystack!

Emily Shaffer led an excited group of Maine Art Educators through the ancient process of firing glass powders on metal. Given demonstrations on techniques such as grisaille, sgraffito, cloisonné, stenciling, and painting with enamels, the eager group was left to experiment with the tools and materials of the medium. Three

Haystack kilns were set at 1500-1520 degrees, and the waiting line was rarely a short one. The enthusiasm of the group was infectious, as we looked to each other for advice and inspiration. Emily worked alongside us, experimenting, collaborating, and sharing her vast knowledge.

Everyone comes to Haystack with a different goal in mind. The experience is often personal, spiritual, and always renewing. I chose to simply create a “sampler” of techniques, while others went beyond the demonstrations; playing with 3-D pieces, realistic textures/patterns, and cold attachment techniques. All results were both inspired and visually interesting.



Enameling before...Photo by Heidi O'Donnell

Despite the large blister on my finger and the loss of my cherished centerpiece (both my fault), the Haystack experience was once again FABULOUS!! Thank you to the MAEA Board members, MAEA Volunteers, Haystack Staff, and all colleagues for a wonderful weekend.

~Sue Beaulier, *Ashland District School*



...and after. Suzanne Goulet with her mom and her landscape created in Enameling 101 and exhibited at MECA.

ENCAUSTIC

For the past several years I have been attending the Fall Conference at Haystack. Every year, without a doubt I sign up for Ceramics as my first choice option in workshops. This year, I decided it was time to take a risk and try something new. I could not have been more pleased with my choice. Helene Ferrar is one of the most thoughtful, knowledgeable and creative teachers I have had the pleasure to learn from and Encaustic was all that I had hoped it would be. It was playful, experimental, and thought provoking.

We began our workshop with a basic introduction to working with the materials and preparing our surfaces and then we were let loose to play. Throughout the 2 days, Helene would periodically gather us together to introduce another way of working with the wax. We painted, collaged material, inscribed and carved. We built up surfaces and carved away at them to create texture and depth. We were encouraged to

try new things and then deconstruct them if we were not satisfied with the results. It was completely engaging and because of that, the time went by far too quickly.

At the end of our session, we gathered together to look at all the work that had been created. The range was amazing. We had landscapes, still lifes, collages and abstract compositions. I believe we all walked away with works we really enjoyed making and a renewed excitement for experimenting and creating. I plan to introduce Encaustic to my upper level classes and hope that they find the new media just as inspiring.

~Heather Monsen, *Morse High School*

IMAGE ON CLAY

The class began with instructor Hannah Niswonger (Nice-wonger because she's Nice) giving an overview of her artwork, as well as sharing her creative and technical journey.

Continued on page 9

I believe we all walked away with works we really enjoyed making and a renewed excitement for experimenting and creating.



Encaustic facilitator Helene Farrar. Photo by Emily Serway



Image on Clay works in progress. Photo by Heidi O'Donnell.



Image on Clay workshop participants. Photo by Hevia Paxson.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

*Investigating the intersection
between 2D and 3D art by
exploring ceramic surface design.*

~ Tara Morin

*Having a variety of techniques to
explore and expand upon.*

~Karen Rubin

*Learning a new technique and
having time and space to play and
make mistakes.*

~Janna DeWan

IMAGE ON CLAY *Continued from page 8*

Hannah has a multi-disciplinary background which combines sculpture, ceramics, and printmaking. Why has she spent so much time perfecting printing on clay? Because, let's face it, clay is sexy.

Our class was immediately engaged in rolling slabs, cutting circles, and mashing our own slab plates. Using a hand crafted underglaze recipe, plates were painted and then transformed using both sgraffito and mishima.

The first afternoon was spent exploring monoprinting on clay using underglaze newsprint transfers, a method that helped to set the stage for more complex printing the next day. After dinner, many students returned to the studio and worked into the night on handbuilding with mono printed slabs, sgraffito, and mishima.

The following day was packed with both handbuilding and printing lessons. The day started with a demonstration on wooden press mold platters and then moved into darted bowls. Hannah's innovative blend of mason stains and CMC goo resulted in viscous ink-like underglaze perfect for silk screening. Using Hannah's designs, students printed silk screen images on clay before cutting and assembling their own vessels.

Students took Hannah's processes and inspiration and ran with them, combining printmaking, mark-making, and handbuilding to create ceramics that were uniquely their own. Experimentation and innovation was encouraged, with both clay experts and newbies finding an entry point into the alluring art of Image on Clay.

~Samara Yandell, Biddeford Middle School

Haystack workshop reports continued on page 13

2019 Maine 200 Pumpkin Installation

Westbrook National Honor Society

by DEBRA BICKFORD

Art Teacher, Westbrook High School

Westbrook's 2019 Maine 200 Pumpkin installation represents our 10th year doing the festival. This annual event is community service for Westbrook High School's National Art Honor Society kids. Every county represented an Abenaki word for welcome by civil rights team kids. Each county also has 2-3 landmark images below the county.

For the first time this year the installation is right in front of the LL Bean boot. Go up and support Camp Sunshine!

Matt Johnson carved the Maine 200 pumpkin, which weighs in at 140 pounds!



Constructing Change

MAEA Member show at MECA

by LYNDA LEONAS

Art Teacher, Auburn Schools



Kelly McConnell, Chair Master of Arts in Teaching program/Associate Professor, MECA, discusses her work with attendees.

The Maine College of Art hosted an Artist's Reception on Friday evening, October 04th, 2019, for Maine Art Education Association members. Retired and current art teachers from throughout Maine mingled with student teachers and educators from the Maine College of Art over hors d'oeuvres; and walked amongst new works as part of the October 2019 exhibit, "Constructing Change."

Works with found objects, acrylics, and weavings transformed our art educator's role as artists first and educators next, reminding me how I can best understand making art for art's sake by simply

making art and displaying it once again. Free to explore with this year's theme, "Constructing Change," I resurfaced a past painting that had the calm aura of a hazy background mixing in the recent gritty addition of life's imprint left upon the shores of a Maine beach.

*Thank you to all of you hosting,
visiting, and exhibiting
in this year's show at MECA.*

While the work I chose to display brought back memories of peaceful sunsets into the landscape of my childhood, I stood aghast at the 11x14" pastel rendering by Kyna Pitula of Lewiston High School. Kyna brought out the strength of my sculptures in her piece, "Curves," forcing me to see my past artistry within the perspective she

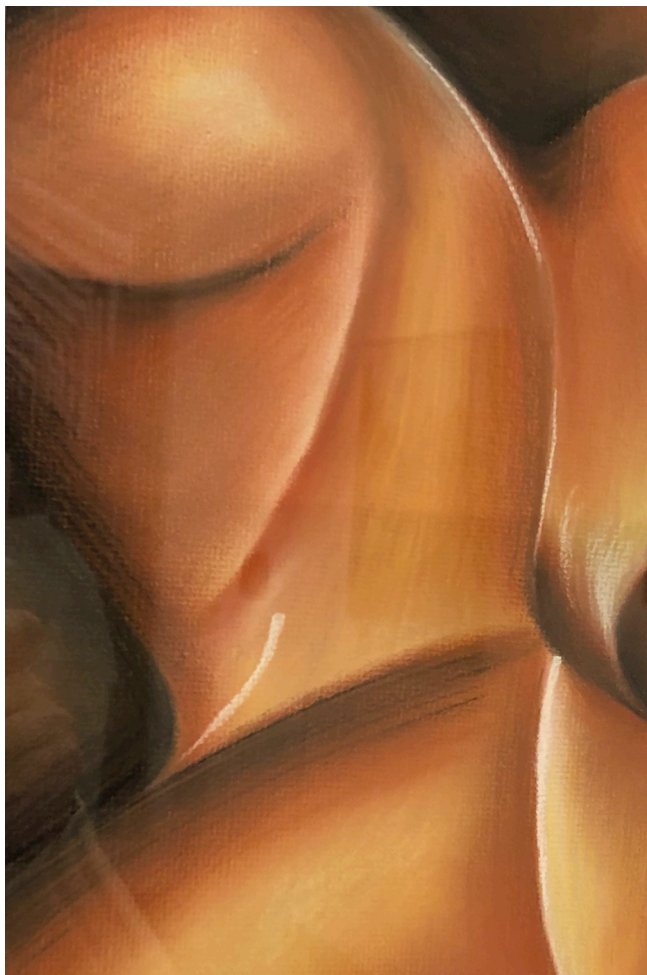
Continued on page 12



Gorham's Allie Rimkunas discusses "SLOWtow" with the artist, Rachel Eleni.

CONSTRUCTING CHANGE *Continued from page 11*

chose to view my work from as she attended an art's club meeting in my home this past year. Kyna's passion as an artist was evident as she dropped to the floor and allowed her artist's eye to see and flow through her fingers out onto the substrate. Standing before her work of my own sculpture, I saw Kyna's passion and through her



Kyna Pitula, Lewiston High School, "Curves."

You are invited to **MAEA Board Meetings**

Join us at the MEA offices in Augusta or virtually or online via Zoom.

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule

**11.14.19, 12.13.19/Holiday Gathering,
1.9.20, 2.13.20, 3.12.20, 4.9.20, May-By
Committee, and June-Summer Retreat**

eyes remembered my own passion for art. Retired artist, Diane Noble's title states it best: "Foggy Out There."

Thank you to all of you hosting, visiting, and exhibiting in this year's show at MECA. I am certain many other members were able to renew their own passion for educators as artists first and review their own inner self from new perspectives in "Constructing Change."

Whenever life gets foggy, call on a Maine Arts Education Association member. We have the power to enliven each other's passion in the manner Kyna and the Maine College of Art staff and students have enlivened mine.



Diane Noble, Retired, "Foggy Out There."

MIXED MEDIA is the award winning (September-June) 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 Lisa Ingraham (Editor/Designer): lisa.ingraham@msad59.org.

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

WET FELTING FLOWERS

Good things blossomed in The Wet Felted Flowers Workshop at Haystack this fall.

Jennifer Field incorporated all the senses in her instruction. First, we learned how to use an array of new art tools, including a cafeteria tray, sushi mat, and lilac scented olive oil soap to create a flat piece of fabric. If one fragrance didn't delight your olfactory channel there were other options like geranium and lemon.

Gasps of amazement came from the group as Jennifer offered us bright, bold colors of short fiber merino wool. The whimsical palette of fluffy hues mimic Jennifer's joyful exuberance and love of all things patterned and swirled. With some layering techniques, several artists in the workshop created more subtle and realistic blooms, while others made fantasy hybrid ones.



"Just me and my fleurs." Photo submitted by Lynn Bustard

The wool was surprisingly soft to the touch and the process was a bubbly kind of mess that improved everyone's back to school hands. Jennifer not only taught students to form the wool into sheets but also how to wrap the fibers carefully around plastic toy eggs with a layer of tulle to fashion petals in a cupped shape. Jennifer is an amazing storyteller and we listened to her experiences in the art world that range from toymaker, advertiser, fashion design, and glass bead lampwork. Her personal stories and application to teaching made this workshop relevant to everyone.

This was Jennifer Field's third time teaching at our Fall conference at Haystack. It is no secret as to why we keep requesting her. Her amazing display in the studio of felted woodland creatures and portraits of famous artists like Van Gogh and Picasso showed higher possibilities from this sometimes overlooked medium. She prepared nice bags of supplies for each student, which included delicious therapy chocolate! Jennifer teaches courses in Kittery, Maine through adult ed. Be sure to follow her on Facebook at Jennifer Field Studios.

~Christine Del Rossi, Mt Ararat High School

STAINED GLASS

This year, the weather was perfection for the MAEA fall conference. However, the stained glass workshop was so invigorating that it was hard to pull away and take quiet moments to watch the seals fish off the rocks or the sailboats slowly disappear along the horizon line. For those of us up to our eyeballs (quite literally) in glass, we were fully committed to learning a new craft while intently focusing on not slicing our fingers. The grinders worked full-time and the sound of scoring glass was constant. The heat of the solder filled our nostrils and our faces were partially covered with safety goggles. We were in it so deeply that we often didn't hear the sound of the Haystack bell announcing mealtime.

Continued on page 14



The stained glass crew. Photo submitted by Kimberly Medsker.

My favorite part of the stained glass workshop was spending time on my own work and seeing others' great ideas that I can take back to the classroom.

The instruction was individualized and the final products showcase a wide range of inspiration. While most of us were novices to the craft, a few were experienced and extremely valuable in the learning process and weren't afraid to jump in and offer advice and tricks to teaching it to the rest of us.

~Kimberly Medsker, *Freeport High School*

WATERCOLOR PLUS

Participants in the watercolor workshop had the opportunity to try a variety of techniques while practicing new ideas and refreshing their skills. Each artwork we created grew from a series of well-considered steps to build an image with color, texture and layers. We experimented with a variety of palettes and prepared our paint for maximum flow and layering.

Workshop facilitator, Marcia Christensen, shared her techniques and displayed her collage made from a variety of papers, each showing a

different result when used as a base for the paint. She introduced us to some new painting surfaces and encouraged experimentation. We used a gesso-like surface and incised lines, layered washes and cut edges with precise brush handling and used salt to create textured results. We were reminded of the need for patience in the watercolor process and were encouraged to work on several pieces at once.

As always at Haystack the participants in a workshop add to the experience as well. Each artist brought an individual touch to the processes we shared and as the weekend came to a close, we were treated to a display of landscapes that included unique collage elements, abstract leaf paintings with a variety of vivid colors and reflections on the surrounding beauty that included water, trees and sky. It was a wonderful opportunity and will inspire many future experiments with watercolor painting.

~Cam Davis, *Acton Elementary School*



Constance Barnes experimenting with watercolor techniques. Photo by Hevia Paxson.



Electric Ostrich
Brac Buffa (age 10)



OWL Dreaming
Kari Opat (Age 7)



Cayla Rosenhagen
Golden Eagle (Age 13)

Taking Flight

An International Juried Bird Art Exhibition
For Youth Ages 4 to 18

The Taking Flight Exhibition aims to create greater awareness and appreciation for birds, support the development of young artists, and share their art with the public at a professional museum.

Submissions will be accepted between January 1 and June 15, 2020. Juried art will be exhibited at the museum September 2020 - March, 2021



MUSEUM OF AMERICAN BIRD ART
at Mass Audubon

963 Washinton Street, Canton, MA 02021
Learn more: www.massaudubon.org/youthart
skent@massaudubon.org

MAEA Mission _____

The Maine Art Education Association is a statewide professional organization whose members are committed to excellence in visual arts education.



MAEA Goals:

- To encourage best practices in standards-based and learner-centered visual arts classrooms in all Maine schools.
- To foster high quality teaching in the visual art and provide professional development opportunities in curriculum, instruction and assessment, as well as in current issues and artistic practice.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and support collaboration among educators and other arts agencies to ensure quality programs for all learners.

It is our purpose to promote the highest quality instruction in visual arts programs that provide depth and breadth of experience to meet the varied needs of students.

Join Us Today!

You can sign up online at aeforme.org/membership or complete this membership form and include a check for membership dues made out to: MAEA and mail to MAEA, c/o Hope Lord, P.O. Box 10463, Portland, ME 04104

Name: _____

[☐] New Member [☐] Renewal

Home Address: _____

City/State, Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

School/Institution Name: _____

and Address: _____

Grades taught (circle) K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Higher Ed

_____ years

[☐] Active Membership \$30.00

[☐] Student \$5.00

[☐] Retired \$15.00

[☐] Retired LIFETIME \$120.00

[☐] Pay It Forward donation to new teacher scholarship to Haystack Fall Conference

Membership is renewed with each school year. New or renewal is required at time of Fall Conference

Registration. Membership expires August 31st.