

# RUMRIVER ART CENTER STAFF & TEACHING ARTISTS



## **Makilyn Koep, Executive Director**

Makilyn graduated from Iowa State with her BFA and continued her education at the University of Minnesota to receive her Masters in Education, where she focused on culturally relevant curriculum and the process of art-making vs the final product. While going to grad school, she started volunteering at Rumriver Art Center as a clay technician. RRAC was a haven for her! She found her creative people and was able to express herself through the process of creating in Rumriver's studios and classes. This flowering community in Anoka has inspired and motivated her to make a difference and spread her art wings from volunteer, to teaching artist, to Creative Director, to her current position of Executive Director in 2024. She is a process-focused, community-driven artist that is excited to see the healing power of art connect people!



## **Samantha Moseng, Creative Director**

Samantha is RRAC's Creative Director who brings a lifelong passion for art and storytelling to her teaching and leadership. She began teaching at the Art Center in 2022, leading weekend drawing classes and kids' summer camps that span drawing, multimedia, painting, and crafting. Her classes explore a wide range of themes, including Anime, Avengers, Harry Potter, Nature Sketchbooks, Star Wars, and more. A dedicated creator from an early age, Samantha grew up redrawing bird field guides, making comics for friends, and trading drawings at school. She remained deeply involved in the arts throughout college and found a vibrant creative community online during the pandemic when classes moved fully remote. After graduating in 2021, she worked as a reading tutor at a local elementary school, where she used art to engage students—sketching their ideas during each session and combining them into collaborative artworks. These experiences reinforced her belief in the power of art to spark connection, confidence, and learning. Sam's role is to create the schedule for all the classes offered at RRAC. She works with 60+ teaching artists to create the wide range of class offerings.



## **Lindsay Kieffer, Operations Director**

Lindsay has been with Rumriver Art Center since September 2013, serving as the Operations Director and PreK art instructor. With a passion for both art and education, Lindsay brings a unique blend of leadership and teaching experience to the art center. Prior to joining Rumriver Art Center, Lindsay spent six years as a special education teacher in a center-based autism classroom, where she developed specialized approaches for working with diverse learners. Additionally, Lindsay worked for seven years in a group home setting, supporting adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Lindsay holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Pre-Primary Education, as well as a Master's Degree in Special Education, specializing in Developmental Disabilities and Autism. This strong educational background, combined with practical experience, allows Lindsay to foster a creative and supportive environment for all learners at RRAC.



### **Kiana Packer, Finance Director**

Kiana has worked in a variety of administrative and operational roles at Rumriver Art Center over the last seven years. With a Master's in Business Administration, she brings well-rounded expertise in grant writing, financial management, budgeting, and accounting. She has successfully secured funding for a variety of programs and projects at RRAC, ensuring that each initiative is effectively funded and aligns with organizational goals. Prior to joining RRAC, she worked for The City of Ramsey by planning and developing recreational programming and large-scale community events. Earlier in her career, Kiana tutored writing at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, where she developed her passion for writing and helping others. Kiana's blend of creative, financial, and strategic skills helps her in advancing the arts programming initiatives at RRAC, and she is committed to ensuring that every program is financially sustainable and impactful.



### **Madison Nelmark, Gallery & Outreach/Volunteer Director**

Madison is a queer female artist from East Bethel, Minnesota. She attended the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, earning her BFA with a specialty in Fine Arts and a minor in Art History. Her work investigates personal and internal biases towards femininity, pleasure, and queerness. Nelmark utilizes a mixture of mediums in her work, from ceramics, crochet, and printmaking to sculpture, with her main focus on oil painting. In 2023, she exhibited her debut solo show, *Morbid Longing*, at the Anna Leonowens Gallery and has also had work shown in several group shows in the U.S. and Canada. After graduating from university, Nelmark began working at Rumriver Art Center in August of 2023 as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator and as a teaching artist. Recently, she has taken on the role of Gallery Director. She continuously strives to use her interests, education, and experience to provide accessible fine art education and safe spaces for queer folks to create.



### **Kirstin Kasa, Marketing & Communications Director**

Kirstin holds a B.A. in Journalism with an Art minor from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and has over five years of experience in corporate and freelance writing. Since 2022, she has served as the Communications Director for Rumriver Art Center, where she blends her professional expertise with her lifelong passion for the arts. As a child, Kirstin loved painting and exploring nature, influences that continue to inspire her creative work. Today, she enjoys art journaling and painting, appreciating the therapeutic qualities of artistic expression. Kirstin is dedicated to using the power of creativity and storytelling to inspire, connect, and uplift communities.



## **Chris Singewald, Ceramics Director & Teaching Artist**

Chris received a BFA in Studio Ceramics from the University of Northern Iowa in 2006. After graduating, he became an apprentice for internationally renowned ceramic artist, Chris Gustin in South Dartmouth, MA. Chris also received a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth in 2010. From 2011–2013, Singewald was a Resident Artist and Materials/Glaze Technician at Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis, MN, as well as the Outreach and Studio Technician. He was the Outreach Manager at Northern Clay Center from April 2013 to January 2017. In March 2019, Chris curated Variations of Shino, an exhibition featuring 20 regional potters utilizing Shino glaze during the National Council on Education for the Ceramics Education (NCECA) conference in Minneapolis. He was awarded the 2019 Fogelberg Studio Fellowship at Northern Clay Center. Chris traveled to Haystack Mountain School of Craft in 2018, 2019, and 2022 participating as a workshop assistant, technician, and a Ceramics instructor for their Student Craft Institute. In 2024, Singewald was a Panelist and Demonstrating Artist at the Iowa Clay Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Currently, Singewald is the Ceramics Director at Rum River Art Center and maintains a home studio in Minneapolis, MN. Chris has been a contracted teaching artist since 2011, leading classes throughout the Twin Cities for many non-profit arts organizations. He has extensive experience teaching clay workshops with children and adults and is passionate about bringing positive clay experiences to students.



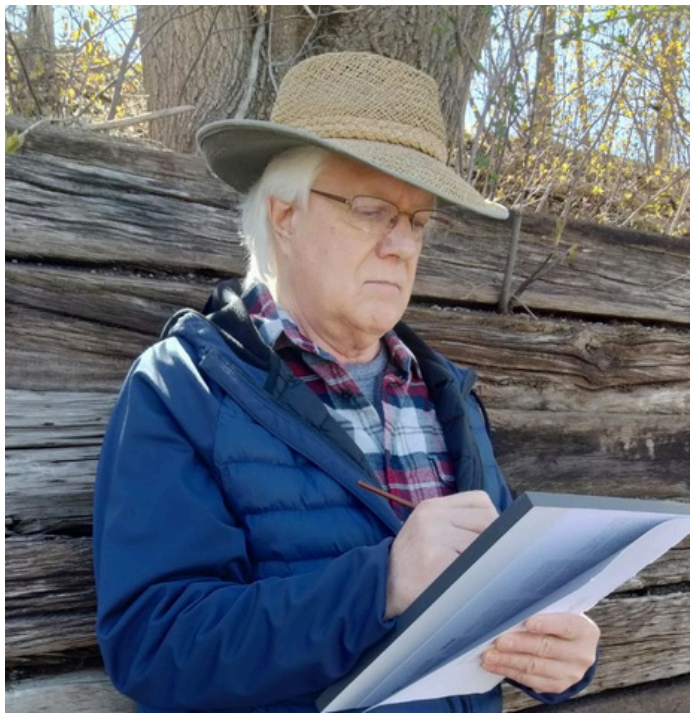
## **Jenna Nguyen, Ceramics Technician**

Jenna supports the management and daily operations of the clay studio. She has been working in ceramics since 2023 and is currently pursuing her studies at Anoka-Ramsey Community College. Jenna has been a member of the Rum River Art Center team since May 2025, where she teaches one-time wheel-throwing workshops and summer camp classes. Her artistic practice centers on clay, and she incorporates a range of materials and surface techniques—such as silk-screening, underglaze painting, and sandblasting—to enhance and decorate her work.



## **Emily Robinson, Director of Creative Flow Art Center (RRAC's Sister Location in Fridley) & Teaching Artist**

Emily Robinson is an artist whose lifelong connection to art began with drawing and community education classes and deepened when she first discovered the potter's wheel. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Art Education with a concentration in ceramics and a certificate in adaptive art, developing a strong foundation in wheel throwing and clay processes. Although she stepped away from art for a time while pursuing a career in sales and later Human Resources, Emily eventually found her way back to creative practice through photography, oil painting, and teaching. After reconnecting with ceramics and becoming involved with the Rumriver Art Center, she began leading wheel-throwing classes, where she combines her technical skills and encouragement to help students discover confidence and joy in making art. Emily's role is to oversee the programming, gallery, community outreach and overall operations of the CFAC location.



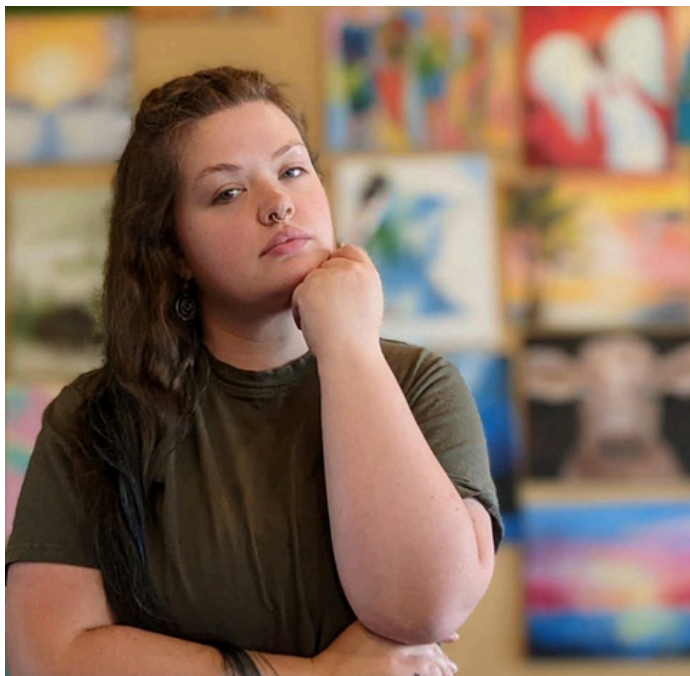
## **Tom Pace, Teaching Artist**

Tom brings decades of diversified artistic experience to his teaching. Starting as a photojournalist and dark room technician at a small-town newspaper, Tom's strength is learning new skills on the fly, which led him to MSP Communications. For 18 years, he delivered excellence for Mpls St Paul Magazine as a graphic camera technician through black and white scanning and reproduction work, in addition to color scanning and color correction. Throughout this journey, Tom has served as mentor and teacher to all interested in learning along the way. Tom's artistic passions swirl around informal fluidity in art. Capturing the moment in every medium. Among many awards for photography, Tom treasures his 2nd place award for poster art at the Ventura, California County Fair. The poster was so loved, someone ran off with it! With a degree in Graphic Communications, Tom currently teaches Watercolor, which includes plein air watercolor, urban sketching, and basic color theory at Rumriver Art Center.



## **MaryLeah Marshall, Teaching Artist**

As a teaching artist at the Rum River Art Center, MaryLeah takes immense pleasure in sharing her passion for art with others. It brings her great joy to witness her students evolve and develop their unique style and expression. Her inspiration comes from nature, and she finds the creative process and the unexpected qualities of watercolor to be particularly beautiful. She has been teaching for over 30 years in a variety of settings including public and private schools, continuing education, museum education, and outreach programs. From a very young age, She has been fascinated by the art of creation, and that fascination has only grown with time. She has been fortunate enough to work as an art educator, and in this role, she has had the chance to experiment with and explore various mediums of art, such as printmaking, sculpture, drawing and painting. She grew up in Michigan and holds degrees in Art and Art Education from Grand Valley State University. Her work has been showcased in statewide regional juried shows, museums, and galleries in Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia. She currently resides in Andover, Minnesota with her husband and family. She takes great pride in her role as a mentor and teaching artist, and she is passionate about sharing the beauty of art with the world.



## **Britt Maki, Teaching Artist**

Britt is an artist and educator who has been creating art for as long as she can remember. She realized her passion for teaching and sharing her art with others in her late 20's. A 2011 graduate of Anoka High School, she earned her Associate of Fine Arts degree from Anoka-Ramsey Community College in 2024 and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Studio Arts degree at Metropolitan State University. Britt's teaching journey began in 2018 at Cheers Pablo in Coon Rapids, and she joined the Rum River Art Center in 2020, teaching a variety of different classes. Britt's artistic explorations span a wide range of mediums, including oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, paper making, jewelry making, and utilizing recycled materials. She credits the supportive community and growth opportunities at RRAC for helping her develop as an artist, a teacher, and a person. As an autistic individual with ADHD, Britt finds that teaching and learning have been invaluable in her personal and artistic development, particularly in navigating communication and networking within the art world.



### **Sushila Anderson, Teaching Artist**

Sushila has an associate degree in Graphic Design from Hennepin Technical College and a Bachelor of Elective Studies from St. Cloud State University. She's an award-winning glass artist in the Twin Cities area and owner of Dynamic Glass Design. She creates stained glass, fused glass, and mosaic glass artwork. She started working with glass in 2008 creating small fused glass jewelry. Over the years, she has worked her way up into large commissions, displaying artwork in Minnesota art galleries, winning awards, and teaching classes in the Twin Cities area.



### **Cherene Bebeau, Teaching Artist**

Cherene holds an Associates of Applied Science degree in graphic design and fine arts, has studied teaching techniques in paper-making and book arts at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and has studied watercolor, mixed media, and acrylic with numerous prominent artists. She has developed a user-friendly teaching style to help students break barriers and experiment with common materials in new and exciting ways. For over 32 years, Cherene has taught throughout Minnesota, as far north as Nova Scotia, as far south as the Dominican Republic, and on two theme cruises to students ranging in ages from pre-schoolers to seniors. She also served as a year long mentor for Rum River Art Center.



### **Bernadette Chlebeck, Teaching Artist**

Bernadette is mainly an Alcohol Ink artist. She also occasionally works with oil and acrylic paint. She enjoys creating art people use to layer their personal space with beauty. She often uses bright vivid colors inspired by life and the people around her. Her focus with each piece is to evoke an emotion that will connect them to the people and places they need. Bernadette studied photography at Anoka Ramsey Community College while getting her degree in education decades ago. Her return to the arts started at the end of the Covid pandemic. She went back to Anoka Ramsey Community College to study drawing and oil painting. She also participated in multiple classes at Rumriver Art Center, other community art programs, online, and self study. In 2023 she started selling her art at local art fairs and art centers. Her Alcohol Ink classes are designed to teach students how to use the tools, so each student can create their own works of art.



### **Jody Herbst, Teaching Artist**

Jody has been a teaching artist at Rum River Art Center for about three years, and also an active student there for many years as well. After 22 years of working in early childhood and elementary education, she began to explore the art of glass mosaics. She sincerely felt a pull in her heart to continue to learn and grow as a mosaic artist. She is fortunate to be able to share the skills that she has learned throughout the years as a teaching artist at RRAC.



### **Juanita Tatum, Teaching Artist**

Juanita is a self-taught mixed-media artist that creates through play, experimentation, and the right amount of chaos. You can usually find her in her home studio on the floor with her dogs, in her upstairs studio at Rumriver Art Center or at “Our Gallery” in St Louis Park. She dabbles in mixed-media including acrylic paint, watercolor, gouache, inks, pens, pencils, paper, canvas, fibers, and wood. She believes “anything can be an art supply.” Through the innovative use of recycled materials, she teaches both children and adults to experiment creatively and express themselves without limits or judgment. Art is about the process, not the end result. Juanita has been teaching a variety of classes in different mediums at Rum River Art Center since the spring of 2024.



### **Kirstie Alwin, Teaching Artist**

Kirstie graduated from St. Cloud State University with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Two Dimensional Media and a Bachelors of Science in Art Education. She has 9 years of teaching experience in Minnesota schools and is currently an Artist in Residence for an elementary school in Forest Lake. Kirstie teaches Acrylic Paint Nights at Rum River Art Center and has been a Teaching Artist there for 1 year. She is passionate about engaging with the community through art and was a participating artist at the Main Street Tunnel Mural Project in Anoka. Kirstie is drawn to vibrant colors and expressive mark making and considers herself to be a multi-disciplinary artist working with paint, stained glass, sculpture and collage.



### **Aimee Kuiper, Teaching Artist**

Aimee is an author and illustrator from the suburban wilds of Savage, Minnesota. Her vibrant character art centers around third culture stories, bringing diverse characters to life. She has exhibited in galleries across the Midwest and east coast, including The Yards Collective (Rochester, NY), Thorp Building (Minneapolis, MN), Johnson Gallery (St Paul, MN), Packard Gallery (Vermillion, SD), and Seneca Park Zoo Poetry Competition (Irondequoit, NY) as well as in print publications like Cicada Creative Magazine, Strictly Magazine, Residual Believers Magazine, and The Howling Press. When she is not in the studio, Aimee teaches young artists how to tell their own stories across Minnesota with her workbook, *This Is Your Story*. Her personal practice has fueled a passion to make art accessible to all ages, abilities, and communities!



### **Elizabeth Coleman, Teaching Artist**

Elizabeth received her MFA in Visual Art from Ohio State University and a BFA in Ceramics and Glass from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Awarded a 2017 Minnesota Artist Initiative Grant and a 2010 Jerome Ceramic Artist Project Grant, Elizabeth currently is a studio artist in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her work has been exhibited in Hungary and nationally at venues such as Baltimore Clayworks; the Canton Art Museum, Canton, Ohio; and the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, North Dakota. Coleman has exhibited in the 2005 NCECA Biennial in Baltimore and in the 2008 NCECA Invitational: Voices, at the Society for Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as well as at SOFA Chicago. In 2021 and 2022, she received Creative Support for Individuals Grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board.



### **Emily Wagner, Teaching Artist**

For Emily, art is her life and love. Drawing and painting are her favorite ways to create, and she always enjoys exploring new mediums and subjects. She has a BFA in Design and Animation and currently works full-time as a production artist. She just started teaching at RRAC in the evenings and weekends, and is excited to be teaching a Charcoal Portrait Drawing course and a Figure Drawing course.



## **Christine Tauer, Teaching Artist**

Christine has degrees in elementary education, vocal music, two years at Anoka Ramsey in theater, two years at UMM graduate theater program, workshops at Harvard and UCONN, States Arts Best Practice Board, Masters of Education from Hamlin, and eleven gifted/enrichment classes Hamlin. She has had the pleasure of working with and teaching children and adults since 1994 in various roles of children's theater, voice lessons, teacher workshops, elementary classroom, gifted/enrichment classes, elementary music teacher, and after school art classes. Her art background is varied and involves teaching others to love art. In 2001, she created an after school program that combined science and the arts that won the state's Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Award and led her to present her program in Washington D.C. With the prize winnings, she attended Harvard's Project Zero for several summers that taught her to enhance learning, thinking and creativity in the arts and other disciplines. She then led workshops for teachers to teach others how to use the arts in their classes. She was also on the States Arts Best Practice Board where she wrote standards and curriculum for the arts. In 2002, she was chosen as a Fulbright Memorial Teacher and spent a month in Japan touring schools and exploring Japanese culture. She then developed a Japanese class for North Suburban Summer Enrichment school and taught there 20 summers. Since she has retired, she started taking classes at RRAC and won a mentorship to study mixed media under Cherene Bebeau. She has spent the last two years plus teaching various art classes and creating art for RRAC. It has opened up a whole new world of finding a part of herself that she didn't know existed.



## **Emily Comstock, Teaching Artist**

Comstock is a sculptor who has worked and taught in many pockets of clay history including the Archie Bray Foundation, Penland School of Craft, and Northern Clay Center. They earned an Honors BFA with a ceramics emphasis from University of Utah in 2022. Comstock has been teaching in the twin cities since 2023, after they began developing their art teaching practice in 2018. Their work currently explores notions of care, force, and devotion primarily through clay, also incorporating installation, video, and performance. In the classroom, they invite an inquiry-focused, process-driven environment. Although they are new to Rumriver Art Center, Comstock is so excited to engage with a wide range of students while sharing their breadth of knowledge. Comstock teaches Hand-Built Pottery and Homeschool Wheel Throwing.



## **Laurie Stubbs, Teaching Artist**

Laurie is a self-taught artist who has nurtured a lifelong passion for art and creativity. For the past eight years, she has primarily worked with alcohol inks, while also delving into fiber arts, mosaics, and fluid mediums. Laurie holds an Apparel Arts certification and has extensive experience working with clothing, fabrics, and fibers. Additionally, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. For the past four years, Laurie has been sharing her love of alcohol inks with students at Rum River Art Center, teaching numerous classes and inspiring others to explore this vibrant medium. Laurie's dedication to her craft and her enthusiasm for teaching has touched the lives of many students at Rum River Art Center.



## **Sarah Westman, Teaching Artist**

Sarah has been volunteering and teaching at Rumriver Art Center for the past year. She is currently teaching hand built clay classes in house and through RRAC's outreach programs. She has an Art Degree from the University of Minnesota. Her artist areas of interest include, ceramics, sculpture, painting, and alcohol ink arts. She enjoys teaching and taking classes at Rumriver Art Center with her son. She believes that art is a way to connect with others and there is a place for everyone within the arts.



## **Larry J. Homan, Teaching Artist**

Growing up, Larry gravitated towards art. In high school, he knew he wanted to be an artist of some sort. He taught himself how to use an airbrush and opened a sideline airbrushing business, which operated for 25 years (1994-2019). In 2009, he began work as a private painting therapist, working with people suffering from all kinds of brain disorders, from Alzheimer's and Dementia to Autism, stroke recovery and Traumatic Brain Injury and many others. He continues the same work today while pursuing his dream as a fine artist and teaching others how to paint via group painting classes. Although his main media is acrylic on canvas, he has also used charcoal, pencil, pen and ink, mixed media, watercolor and oils. He loves to experiment and try new things, but most of his work is predominantly realism or representational. He tends to focus on nature, landscapes, some wildlife, some architecture and florals. He enjoys sharing the beauty of the natural world in his work, loves bright, vivid colors, sunsets and imagery depicting strength and power. One of his hobbies is metal detecting, which he began doing around 2013 and which fueled his love of coins. He saw a video showing how to turn a coin into a ring and began to pursue crafting them himself. After purchasing the necessary equipment, he began to practice the process of coin ring making and within a few months, began to feel more confident in the craft. After five years, he now has a few videos of his own on YouTube showing others the process and sharing the joy of transforming coins into wearable art and sells his rings at art shows, coin shows and online.



## **Meghan McFadden, Teaching Artist**

Meghan teaches one-time wheel throwing classes in RRAC's thriving clay studio! She began her ceramics journey at Rum River Art Center by taking a one-time wheel throwing class with some friends and as they say, the rest is history! She has been consistently wheel-throwing at RRAC and has been volunteering as a studio monitor since 2021. She loves being able to pass on her love of pottery to anyone that is looking to try wheel-throwing out for the first time. Who knows, they may find themselves hooked after only one class!



### **Lei Washington, Teaching Artist**

Lei is a potter based out of Minneapolis, MN. She creates pottery pieces that reflect who she is as a person, meaning you will find bright colors, wit and whimsy. She has been making pottery for the past 3 years. She has been an elementary school teacher for 11 years. She likes to use the skills that she has learned as an educator to teach pottery students how to create pieces they are proud of. She has taught many intermediate/advanced wheel and texture classes at Rumriver Art Center.



### **Layl McDill, Teaching Artist**

From crafting dollhouses to illustrating children's books, Layl's path led to a degree in Illustration from the Columbus College of Art and Design. Over the past three decades, Layl has honed her skills, exploring various mediums and techniques. For 27 years, she and her boyfriend have overseen Clay Squared to Infinity, their studio for handmade tile and sculptural works, nestled in NE Minneapolis.



### **Mary Horgan, Teaching Artist**

Mary is a retired military veteran and artist passionate about creating and appreciating art. After studying studio arts and art history in college, she joined the military, where her planned Illustrator role was eliminated. Following retirement, she rediscovered her love for art through programs like Veterans in the Arts and online classes at Rumriver Art Center. A proud achievement is designing the Minnesota Women Veteran Memorial, honoring the often-overlooked contributions of women in the military.



### **Sanjukta Mitra, Teaching Artist**

Sanjukta is a self-taught artist whose passion for creativity began in childhood, surrounded by a family of artists. After 15 years as a data science consultant, she rediscovered her love for painting during a 2020 sabbatical. Her art, initially focused on portraiture, has evolved into expressions of hope and connection. Inspired by music, nature, and human emotions, she seeks to capture the unspoken through her work. Her first solo show at Rumriver Art Center and subsequent awards solidified her decision to pursue art professionally, making it her life's purpose.



### **Erin Proctor, Teaching Artist**

Erin is a metal artist and instructor whose artistic path took an unexpected turn. Initially a photography major, Erin discovered her passion for metalworking after a college professor encouraged her to explore the metals department. What began as a simple curiosity grew into a dedicated focus on metal art. Erin's work blends her love for imagery with the craftsmanship of metal, creating pieces that reflect both her creativity and precision. Outside of her artistic practice, Erin is an avid collector of vintage clothing, decor, and furniture, and has a deep interest in aviation.



### **Krista Zeiter, Teaching Artist**

Krista is a trauma-informed art therapist and artist who combines creativity, psychology, and spirituality in her healing work. She holds a Master's degree in Adlerian Psychotherapy and Art Therapy from Adler Graduate School. Since 2017, she has provided art therapy in private practice and at renowned centers like Hazelden and The Emily Program. She offers virtual and in-person sessions, oracle readings at We The Starborne in St. Paul, and art and nature sessions in Dayton, MN. Her artwork is available at WildMother Goods in Zumbrota, MN.



### **Art Jacobs, Teaching Artist**

Art is a skilled artist specializing in pet portrait drawings and pastel paintings, with a passion for capturing the unique personality of every subject. With experience teaching at public art centers and as an adjunct instructor, Art opened The West Plains Art Center, where he dedicated himself to nurturing students' artistic growth and providing a platform for fellow instructors to pursue their creative endeavors. Inspired by the Impressionists, Art admires their style, methods, and innovative use of pastels, which influence his own work. His art has been featured in jazz clubs, public venues, and is permanently displayed at the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox. A proud member of the Pastel Society of America, Art has had five pieces accepted into this prestigious organization.



### **Arianna Soydara, Teaching Artist**

Arianna is a local artist residing in the Anoka-Champlin area. She uses spray paints to create fantastic and otherworldly landscapes primarily on paper and other non-porous surfaces such as glass or metal. She earned her bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University with a major in graphic design before moving to the greater Twin Cities area. Her primary desire is to explore art both around her and in herself. She spends her time attending art fairs, performing painting demonstrations, and teaching classes at the Rumriver Art Center. Arianna's primary inspiration is existentialism and an endearing fascination for the cosmos. Most of her art is galaxy-themed, but she enjoys developing new techniques for this fresh medium. She looks forward to helping new artists develop their skills and enjoys trying new things every day.



### **Samantha Longley, Teaching Artist**

Samantha is a ceramic artist and art teacher from Minneapolis, MN. Her porcelain ware is handmade on the potter's wheel and given a unique twist...literally. The soft movement, individual to each piece, is gently and purposefully given while the work is fresh on the wheel. Other objects are carefully cut, carved, twisted and shaped for the sake of play with porcelain and delicateness. Her work is an exploration of form and a celebration of beauty in the imperfect.



### **Terra Houlberg, Teaching Artist**

Terra has loved art since she was a child. Her personal art expression has had her collecting materials (primarily paper) wherever she goes, constantly looking for the fabric/archive of a society. Collecting and responding with a new narrative, she loves building surfaces with grit and layers by adding and then redacting. She primarily works analog to use her human touch to create the work. The scale varies from small index card size to 5 feet wide. She explores the dissonant through the co-existence of patterns and images that do not typically belong together as a way of pursuing and creating harmony. She has a Masters of Art Education from University of Minnesota. She has been teaching art in the Anoka-Hennepin School District for the last 17 years and at RRAC the last 2 years. She has taught mostly Wheel and Hand-Building classes at RRAC but loves working with all mediums.



### **Angie Renee, Teaching Artist**

Angie has been a teaching artist for 20+ years. After earning her degree in Art & Art History at the University of WI-River Falls in 1997, she became a studio artist at Northern Clay Center and began teaching for them in a variety of ways. She found her way to Rumriver Art Center in 2013 and started teaching clay classes. She has developed many other classes like drawing outside the lines and printmaking. She is passionate about art history and has taught it to different organizations for many years. As an artist, she is constantly exploring new ideas and ways of creating. She teaches her students to focus on the art-making process vs the final product. Angie was previously RRAC's Creative Director (now retired) where her role was to create the schedule for all the classes offered at RRAC. She worked with over 60 teaching artists to create the wide range of class offerings. She also planned outreach classes and developed other high-quality arts programming. Angie continues to teach a variety of classes and workshops at RRAC & CFAC.



### **Glenn Allenspach, Teaching Artist**

Glenn has been teaching at Rum River Art Center since the fall of 2021. He teaches wheel throwing, both basic and intermediate/advanced, and occasional special topics. He also offers photography classes. In his 20's, he returned to college, where at the U of M Minneapolis, in 1997, he earned a BFA with a concentration in ceramics and photography. For the past ten years he has been the Coordinating Director of the North Artists Studio Crawl, a self-guided driving tour of working artists' studios in suburban Anoka County. He also exhibits his photographs in group shows and individual shows in galleries and other spaces around the Twin Cities.



### **Dana Christopherson, Teaching Artist**

Dana is a hand lettering artist, illustrator, graphic designer, and art director based in Minneapolis. She has been practicing lettering for over 10 years and teaching workshops around the twin cities for 5 years. For Dana, the art of lettering is all about the journey—the erasing, playing with letterforms, thinking up new compositions—and the end result is just the cherry on top. Dana loves teaching workshops and creating spaces of empowerment and self expression for all who participate. You can learn more about Dana and her work at [dana-christopherson.com](http://dana-christopherson.com)



### **Paul Fosaaen, Teaching Artist**

Paul is an award-winning Surrealist painter and teacher from North Dakota. In 2007, he moved to Minneapolis to study painting and later earned a degree in art history at the University of Minnesota where he began to develop his interest in three-dimensional painting. His work incorporates sculptural elements and mindfulness practices to discuss themes of biology, geopolitics, and trauma. He currently works in acrylic gouache for his three-dimensional painting and watercolor for his mindfulness practices. Paul Fosaaen is new to teaching at Creative Flow Art Center where he teaches “Mindful Markmaking” and “Intro to Three-Dimensional Painting”.



### **Christen Pentek, Teaching Artist**

Christen (they/them) is a textile artist creating wearable textile art pieces from the earth for over 25 years, picking up knitting and crochet with family decades ago, and spinning yarns for 12 years. They work predominantly with wools, dyes, and fibers made in Minnesota’s fibershed while restoring healthy ecological relationships with the land. Their goal is restorative land and resource stewardship, including carbon negative textiles that work for rugged and fun outdoor adventures. Christen has been teaching friends and folk school farm to garment classes since 2022, and is in their first year of engagement with Rum River Arts Center and Creative Flow. This praxis uplifts four basic fabric principles: Color | Antiracism and anti-oppression work, Texture | Geographically based, Structure | Practical implementation and land stewardship, and Twist | Prepared for complexity with flexibility.