

Abigail Merickel



Mission Statement:

My goal is to promote access to the visual arts for both teachers and students as a powerful tool for learning. By learning the visual arts language and the art techniques specific to each residency, students will inquire, explore, discover, problem-solve and create integrating content areas with the visual arts.

Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

Lives In:

Sisters, OR

Homestay:

Homestay (non-smoking preferred) required for residencies more than 70 miles from Bend, OR.

Curriculum Connections

CE	CL	CS	CT
GH	LA	MC	PG
SC	VA		

Japanese Bookbinding, Nature Printing & Haiku*

Students learn a simple bookbinding technique to create their own book. Through the medium of Printmaking, they experience the visual arts language and hands-on printing techniques. They learn the history and uses of Nature Printing. Creating nature prints from leaves, feathers, etc. introduces them to the Principles of Design through their compositions. Japanese literature is explored when the students write their own haiku poetry complimenting their images.

*This bookbinding and nature printing residency can be adapted to social sciences and science curriculums.

Block Print Accordion Book

Students learn the printmaking technique of block printing. They design, carve and print a block print while learning art vocabulary, design and the history of art relevant to printmaking. Using classroom curriculum, students will form groups around a brainstormed theme. Each student will create a specific image as part of their group's theme in creating a picture storyline book. Each group will work together printing a complete book for each member.

Ex –Libris: Art of the Bookplate

Students will design, carve and print their own ex-libris (bookplate). Book lovers from the 15th century on have marked ownership of their books with a design called an “ex libris”. Affixed to the inside cover, it includes the words “ex libris” (meaning from the library of) along with the owner's name. The design may depict a family crest, a beloved animal or special interest. Inspired by historical images and information about Ex-libris, students will develop their own idea, learn the art vocabulary of design, and gain skills in printmaking techniques.

Playful Printmaking Possibilities

Students explore in-depth one of the following printmaking techniques: *block*: a relief form of printing with safety-kut blocks; *nature*: printing leaves, feathers, shells etc. in a nature print composition; *monotype*: a painterly print made on metal plates and printed on an antique letter press; or *collograph*: a print made from found objects & stencils built up on the plate and printed on the press. Using themes from classroom curriculum, students design, carve and create an edition of prints while learning art vocabulary, design and the history of art relevant to printmaking.

Staff & Community Offerings

I can offer the following activities or workshops: slide show of artist's own work with follow up discussion; workshops to teach all of the residencies; workshop to help teachers implement printmaking or bookbinding techniques in their classroom as related to the Oregon Content Standards. Several workshop possibilities: papermaking, handmade cards, handmade books, mixed media/collage art, how to publish student produced work as greeting cards to be used as fundraiser.

Facilities & Supplies

Tables in a self-contained room are preferable but a classroom setting is workable. Materials vary depending upon the project but include easily obtainable school, arts & crafts store, and/or household supplies. Special printmaking supplies—brayers, cutting tools, plexiglass—are artist supplied. All residencies require some set up and cleanup. Volunteers are required. Drying and storage space is necessary. Minimum of three visits.

Cost is approximately \$1.00-2.00 per child/per residency.

About the Artist

Abigail earned a MFA from the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, Italy, and has been actively involved in the art worlds as an award-winning painter, printmaker, and arts educator for over 20 years. She has acquired extensive multi-cultural training in the arts, languages, and education from various European Sojourns. She has taught foreign languages and fine arts internationally to students of all ages and backgrounds. She recently completed a MAT and teaching credential with endorsements in Art & Spanish. She works as an artist-in-residence, substitute teacher and bilingual interpreter. Her work is exhibited and collected in the U.S. and Europe.