



Printmakers of Center for Community Arts

About Open Studio Printmaking

Open Studio Printmaking is a group of printmaking artists who share the space once a week, Thursday afternoons, printing in Studio A in the Shadeland's campus on Walnut Creek's gorgeous and very large French American etching press. It is a rare jewel in the Community Arts program, and we treasure it immensely!

Printing in this collaborative studio environment is pure printmaking joy. It leads to the sharing of the collective years of experience in printmaking knowledge and techniques each of us have mastered individually over the years, resulting in inspiration and growth for each of us. Many of us belong to professional organizations on the national level, and win awards in prestigious exhibitions and competitions. But we are such a congenial group, if you are a self-motivated and driven printmaker, please join us!

If you would like to try printmaking yourself as a beginner, consider signing up for one of the classes at the Walnut Creek Center for Community Arts.

Open Studio Artists

Anna Bates

I am a figurative artist and have been drawing and painting throughout my life. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Berkeley and have taken many courses since then in a variety of art media. Since retiring from a career as a research chemist I have discovered the satisfaction of print making as an infinitely experimental medium. My subjects are inspired by everything scenes. I work from sketches and my own photos where I insert distortion and a bit of fun.

Camolin Akana-Becker

Aloha! As a Honolulu native, much of my work attempts to express my love and nostalgia for Hawaii's vibrance and magnetism. For the last few years, after working and raising a family in the East Bay, I've been taking art classes through Walnut Creek Arts and Recreation. I am currently participating in the Printmaker's Open Studio while taking Beginning Watercolor. I also love collage. Mahalo!

Carol Brent Levin

My prints examine the relationship we have with our environment and more recently with one another. Since I began my exploration in the arts, i have been in wonder of the plants and animals in our local environment. Working on my own restoration project at my home as well as studying native plants, I have discovered the fragility of our ecosystem. Small creatures or tiny plants offer a new work of discoveries. My work is often a response to natural disasters which may be influenced by human activity. I hope my art brings the viewer closer to the beauty of our world as well as to question the relationship we have with one another and nature.

Shari Arai DeBoer

My artwork is inspired by the beauty and wonders I find in the natural world. As a visual artist I enjoy my freedom to pull from the sciences, to interpret, and to interject my own vision. I explore the notion that as we navigate through everyday life and the physical world, within ourselves there is an abundance of wonder, curiosity and growth waiting to be discovered and embraced.

Open Studio Artists

Marian Sims Harris

I am a visual artist working in the San Francisco Bay Area. My passion and talent for art first called to me in a children's outdoor drawing class at Villa Montalvo, Saratoga. I have a BA in Studio Art, emphasis in printmaking, from UCSB, and have continued adding to my artmaking pallet of knowledge with classes, workshops and Open Studios. Having studied and practiced art-making my whole life, I have shown my prints and paintings in exhibitions with professional organizations both locally and nationally.

My greatest artistic passion is learning new techniques and experimenting with materials and processes to find unique ways to express my vision and ideas. Printmaking lends itself to this fascination very well, with multitudes of techniques and unending methods.

My work explores and reflects upon serendipitous experiences in nature, seeking to find the spirit within, be it within the air, the water, the skies, the landscape, or within people or animals. It celebrates adventures in nature, responding to and reflecting the sensory awareness in each situation, to the bright or fading light conditions, exuberance of movement, of a story unfolding, and the ensuing emotional response of the beholder.

Professional affiliations: the National Association of Women Artists (the N.A.W.A.), the Audubon Artists, Inc., the California Society of Printmakers, the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, the Southern Graphics Conference International, the Monotype Guild of New England (past), and the Printmakers of Cape Cod (past). I show my work with these groups, and have won awards in juried shows throughout the United States.

Stephanie Scott

From the beginning I have worked both from nature and in abstraction. As a child in Georgia, I drew horses in landscapes and made free form drawings in which I took great delight in laying in the colors next to each other. Originally a botany/biology major in college, I began studying art, painting abstractions derived from the landscape in acrylic. I made my first etchings as an undergraduate student at the University of Georgia. After graduation in 1968 with a BFA in Painting, I came to California and concentrated on etching



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for seven years, primarily making black and white line drawing etchings of landscapes and plants. I was influenced by Gordon Cook and Rembrandt. I did graduate work in print making at the San Francisco Art Institute. I began putting color in some of my etchings and did some hand-colored etchings of flowers. I received my MFA in Painting from San Francisco Art Institute in 1980.

Presently my dual interest in working both in abstraction and from nature continues. The abstract work I have done includes large & small paintings related to my love of flowers and swimming. I am a national champion US Masters swimmer, both in pool competitions and in open water.

My involvement in doing direct studies from nature has continued to develop, taking the form of large & small watercolor studies of flower blossoms, studies of the ocean & many new small on-location etchings. The artworks in this show are intense studies from nature and are hand printed, limited edition etching and engravings, printed by me from zinc or copper etching plates I create from drawing directly from nature into wax etching hard ground. The flowers are drawn from real flowers and the landscapes are drawn on location. I use 17th century tools and techniques to make my etchings. I have sold my etchings all over the world.

In 1992, I began a notecard business publishing from my larger watercolor studies of flowers, many of which I had grown, and I continue that today with 20 flower designs and have notecards published from 18 of my more than 80 black and white etchings.

There is no historical pattern of development regarding my dual interest in abstraction and studies from nature. I've always done both. It seems to be my true path to do both. The challenge is to be able to continue my work despite all obstacles. I feel most alive when creating new artwork. My other interests include gardening, listening to classical music, swimming in beautiful Lake Sinclair in Georgia and swimming on the Walnut Creek Masters swim team.