

Bio Art: Artmaking with Nature

Ruby Red Workshop
August 6 – August 27, 2024
Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30pm
Educator: Lauri Lynnxe Murphy, lynnxe@gmail.com

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$160 / Member: \$165 / Student: \$165 / Non-Member: \$190

**Price includes a \$30 studio fee for most materials that will be provided by the teacher. Students will purchase some of their own materials and should expect to spend \$10-30.*

Class Description:

This 4-week class combines art history and experimentation to explore the emerging movement of Bio Art. Rooted in environmental concerns and science, Bio Art can range from working with natural materials to manipulating DNA. Students will be introduced to “Agar Art” which involves cultivating bacteria, to working with foraged and harvested materials from nature, and will be encouraged to explore mediums through a conceptual and research-based lens. Participants will learn new ways to look at art, represented in the DAM’s collection by artists like Ernesto Neto and Karen Kitchel.

No prior technical knowledge or specific experience is required, though a sense of curiosity and willingness to experiment will be richly rewarded. Students will experiment with a new material each week, that may culminate in a finished artwork. The DAM’s Sensory Garden will be a focal point, and each class will feature a lecture along with hands-on experimentation and artmaking.

What to Expect:

Each class will begin with an introduction to a material or way of making with a brief lecture meant to inspire and inform. Then students will be invited to explore that week’s materials, with time saved at the end to share our work. Experimentation is greatly encouraged. This is a class with no real rules except for safety.

Timeline:

Week 1: Lecture on “what is bio art?” with a focus on agar and bacterial art. We will make collages with Ernst Haeckel images, and “draw” on agar plates with swabs to cultivate bacteria for use in week two.

Week 2: After a lecture on bacteria art, students will use their phones and small microscopes to create images with the bacteria they cultured the week before.

Week 3: After our inspirational lecture on materials, we will explore the sensory garden and learn about its creation, gently gathering deadheads, seeds and materials to use in our work. This class focuses on “nature shopping” - looking at the materials that we can forage from the wild and ways to use them.

Week 4: After an inspirational slide show of artists working with mushrooms, we will use spore prints that I have collected to create collages and drawings utilizing the prints themselves. A demonstration of taking a spore print will be included, along with a short introduction to Colorado's mushrooms and where to find them.

Class Cancellation Policy:

If a class or workshop needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a "make-up" day will be scheduled on a FRIDAY or SATURDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

Materials:

****Price includes a \$30 studio fee for most materials that will be provided by the teacher. Students will purchase some of their own materials and should expect to spend \$10-30.***

A materials list will be provided to all students at least 4 weeks prior to the start of this class. All organic materials need to arrive to classroom in sealed containers or bags. Please plan accordingly.

Educator:

Lauri Lynnx Murphy is a bio artist, sculptor, curator and writer living in Denver, Colorado. She received her MFA from The Ohio State University on University Fellowship in 2012 and has spent her life building community and DIY gallery spaces and advocating for artists alongside her own robust studio practice.

Her work is research-driven and science-based, and focuses on insect extinction, mutation, climate change and biophilia. Much of her work is made by collaborating with endangered species and the systems they employ, such as building sculptures with bees or making drawings with snails.

www.laurilynnxemurphy.com

LOCAL DENVER AREA MATERIALS RESOURCES

Fine Art materials

Meiningers
Guiry's

ReCreative
K&K Surplus
Queen City Salvage

General Art & Craft materials

Michaels
Walmart
ReCreative

Tools & Hardware

Home Depot
Lowe's
Habitat for Humanity Restore
K&K Surplus

Fibers

Fancy Tiger
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Blazing Star Ranch

Sculpting materials

Reynolds Advanced Materials
Western Sculpting Supply

Reuse/Second-hand materials

ARC
Goodwill
Habitat for Humanity Restore
Gone for Good

ONLINE RESOURCES

DickBlick
Paradise Fibers
Revolution Fibers
Amazon

Ruby Room Policies

CLEANUP:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet painting or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage in the equipment closet. Students will also need to take home all their own materials after each class. Make sure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

CLASSROOM ACCESS

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours and open studio hours. Please contact the Manager of Creative and Public Engagement, Sarah Rockett, if you need to arrange entrance to the Ruby Room outside of those hours – srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

MATERIAL USAGE

Approved Processes & Materials

Please ask if you are unsure about using a material in the workshop.

- All materials that are non-toxic and non-flammable
- Chalk/charcoal/compressed powder-based drawing materials
- Loose powder-based drawing/painting materials – i.e. powdered graphite, powdered pigment
- Loose powder-based 3D materials – i.e. plaster, alginate
- Clay – air drying only
- Oil paints & oil medium
- Adhesives
- Odorless mineral spirits – in small amounts
- Acetone – in small amounts
- Hot plates – for encaustic or use w/ wax-based process
- Hot glue & hot glue guns

Restricted Processes & Materials

- Aerosols
 - No spray paint onsite
 - Fixatives and finishing sprays can be used outside with the use of a drop cloth.
- Saws/Wood cutting
- Organic materials
- Any materials that off-gas or produce a pungent smell will require prior approval.

Flammable Materials

STORAGE: Any flammable materials left in the classroom must be stored in the flammable materials cabinet when not in use. This includes all aerosol products, mineral spirits, acetone, etc.

DISPOSAL: Please use the flammables disposal container to dispose of all flammable materials or rags, paper towels, etc. that have been saturated with flammable materials. Do not put these items in the

regular trash can or down the sink. This includes materials such as mineral spirits, acetone, paint thinner, oil paint, etc.

Disposal of Viscous Materials

- **Paint:** Scrape or wipe large amounts of paint into the trash can. Remaining paint may be washed down the sink. Make sure that paint does not sit and dry on the bottom of the sink. Use sponges to wash out the sink, and run water for 1-2 minutes after paint disposal.
- **Plaster:** Dispose of wet plaster into the trash can. Leave container to dry, and crack remaining plaster into the trash once it is dry. Hands and tools used for plaster may be washed in the sink with water running 1-2 minutes after washing.
- **Clay:** Remove wet/dry clay from hands and tools as much as possible before washing in sink. Run water in sink for 1-2 minutes following washing.

SAFETY:

Teachers and students are responsible for practicing safe work habits at all times, as improper use of tools could cause injury. Please work intelligently, safely, and follow all safety guidelines.

- Teachers and students are only to use equipment and tools that they either already know how to use, or have been instructed how to use. If you have a question about how to operate any equipment, please ask!
- Work smart, pace yourself, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Safety glasses, safety goggles, nitrile gloves, and dust masks are available upon request.