

Illustration: Wild Mythologies

Ruby Red Workshop
January 14th – February 4th, 2025
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Educator: Charis Fleshner, charis.lillene@gmail.com

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$130 / Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-50.*

Class Description:

In this class, students will be introduced to the art game Exquisite Corpse, popular among the Surrealist artists. Students will relate Surrealism and the creative creatures that emerge from the drawing game to the exhibit Wild Things: The Art of Maurice Sendak. Drawing on this inspiration, students will create their own original illustrations and learn how story can help influence and mold an artwork's inception. Students will intertwine their illustrations and stories they construct for their creatures – connecting image and text through playful interactions of art viewing, sensory details, collaboration, and creation.

What to Expect:

We will be going into the galleries and making during class time. Exercises each class will build up to creating a final illustration at the end. Beginners welcome! The aim of this class is to jump start your creative thinking and make illustrating accessible and fun instead of intimidating for students.

Timeline:

Week 1

- Learn about and play the Surrealist drawing game exquisite corpse and relate it to the work of Maurice Sendak by visiting the Wild Things exhibit together.

Week 2

- Create your own creature from the exquisite corpse game and begin thinking about the story and personality for your creature.

Week 3

- Look at the work "Dream of Arcadia" by painter Thomas Cole in the gallery and consider how to use color, mood, scale, and environment in our final illustrations.

Week 4

- Bring everything together and work on final illustrations using gouache and color pencil.

Class Make-up Day 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:

Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-50. We partner with [Meininger’s](#) for local shopping, purchase a kit of your required materials online for in-store pickup, or purchase the below items individually.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Prismacolor colored pencils*	1 set of 12	Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils
9 x 12-inch sketchbook	1	Strathmore 400 Series Sketch Pad
Gouache paint set	1	Winsor & Newton Gouache Paint Set
Acrylic paint brush set	1	Assorted Acrylic Paint Brush Set

*Must be Prismacolor pencils.

Educator:

Charis Fleshner is an art educator and nationally exhibiting conceptual artist who earned her MFA from the University of New Mexico. She currently teaches art at the Denver Art Museum and Aims Community College. Her work has been shown at the Museum of Art Fort Collins, Emmanuel Gallery in Denver, and Strata Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has been awarded two artist residencies elsewhere in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her work can be seen at charismakesart.com. She is currently working on projects in color pencil and soft sculpture. <https://www.charismakesart.com/>

Local Denver Area Materials Resources

Fine Art materials

Meininger Art Material*
Guiry’s

General Art & Craft materials

Michaels
Walmart
ReCreative

Fibers

Fancy Tiger
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Blazing Star Ranch

Reuse/Second-hand materials

ARC
Goodwill
Habitat for Humanity Restore
Gone for Good
ReCreative
K&K Surplus
Queen City Salvage

Tools & Hardware

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

Sculpting materials

Reynolds Advanced Materials
Western Sculpting Supply

DickBlick
Paradise Fibers
Revolution Fibers

Online Resources

* The DAM partners with Meininger's for local shopping. A kit of your required materials can be purchased online for pick-up in store.

Ruby Room Policies

Cleanup:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings 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

- 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

Please ask if you are unsure about using certain materials in the workshop.

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.