

Drawing: Discovering Butterflies

Ruby Red Workshop
Saturdays, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
2-week session
May 16, 2026, at the Denver Art Museum
May 23, 2026, at the Butterfly Pavilion
Educators: Anna Kaye, annalouisekaye@gmail.com
Calais LeJeune, clejeune@butterflies.org

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Join the Butterfly Pavilion and the Denver Art Museum for a two-part artistic adventure! In part one, students will learn to draw butterflies by exploring their representation in artworks from the Denver Art Museum's collections, while also discovering the fascinating anatomy of butterflies through the presentation of preserved specimens. In part two, students will be given a guided tour and immersed in the Butterfly Pavilion's lush conservatory, surrounded by thousands of free-flying butterflies. They will continue to refine their drawing practice in this natural setting with the opportunity to nature journal and draw from live or preserved specimens. This two-part workshop is perfect for artists and nature enthusiasts alike and does not require any prior technical knowledge.

Pricing:

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

**All materials will be provided for students.*

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a make-up day will be scheduled on a later SATURDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email access@denverartmuseum.org at least ten (10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

All materials will be provided. Students are welcome to bring their own sketch books and preferred drawing materials, but it is not necessary.

What to Expect:

Students can expect to engage with butterfly specimens, both living and preserved, and examples of artistically represented butterflies in the Collections of the Denver Art Museum. Instruction will cover both the art of illustrating butterflies and the science of their anatomy and coloration. Through the connection of art, science, and nature, students will develop skills in drawing the shapes, patterns, values, and colors of butterflies. They will gain a deeper understanding of nature and butterflies through the exploration of the Butterfly Pavilion and the Denver Art Museum's Collections.

Timeline:

Week 1 – Denver Art Museum

- Students will be given a presentation on butterflies in the Denver Art Museum Collections and drawing demonstration from Anna Kaye and a presentation about the anatomy and coloration of butterflies from Calais LeJuene. Students will examine inspiring butterfly specimens and can select one (or many!) to draw. Students will complete one or more drawings with the option to complete their drawing during the second class session if they would like more time.

Week 2 – Butterfly Pavilion

- Students will be given a 45-minute guided tour of the Butterfly Pavilion. Following this tour, they will have the opportunity to explore nature journaling and drawing live specimens in the conservatory or continue with specimen drawing in the Butterfly Pavilion Ballroom.

Educators:

Anna Kaye was born in Detroit, Michigan and now lives in Denver where she works in her studio creating drawings, paintings, videos, and sculptures that are inspired by the natural world. Witnessing the urban decay from de-industrialization as a child enhanced her sense of empathy, compassion, love for diversity and justice, and reverence for the natural world. She earned her B.S. in geology and fine art at Skidmore College, NY. She continued her education at Yale in painting, drawing, printmaking, and photography. She earned her M.F.A. at Washington University in St. Louis where she was awarded the Laura and William Jens Scholarship and a teaching on record position. Anna Kaye's artwork is a part of international, private, public, corporate, and museum collections. Kaye donates a percentage of all sales annually to environmental funds. She curates large-scale exhibitions that promote social action and connectivity. She currently teaches at the Denver Art Museum and Denver Botanic Gardens.

<https://www.annakayeart.com/>

Calais LeJeune is the Community Engagement Manager at Butterfly Pavilion and has been educating people about invertebrates since 2017. Her passion for the natural world has led her to work with animals ranging from elephants to snails and anything in between! At Butterfly Pavilion, her work in developing and leading community programs and exhibit interpretation connects all ages to invertebrate animals.

Additional Notes:

Please be aware that the class session on **May 16** will take place at the Denver Art Museum and the class session on **May 23** will take place at the Butterfly Pavilion. General admission on the day of the workshop is included in your registration fee.

For directions and parking information at the Denver Art Museum, please see: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/directions-and-parking>

For directions and parking information at the Butterfly Pavilion, please see: <https://butterflies.org/visit/visitor-information/#anchor-9>

DAM WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. Students can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

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 on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org.

QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org or Sarah Rockett at srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at info@denverartmuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!