

# *DIVA:* The Art of Music

Sky Blue Workshop  
Saturdays, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm  
2-week session, November 7 & 14, 2026  
Educator: Charis Fleshner, [charis.lillene@gmail.com](mailto:charis.lillene@gmail.com)

## CLASS DESCRIPTION

From show posters and fashion to the connection between jazz and abstract expressionism, from Kandinsky and Joan Mitchell's synesthesia to the imagery evoked by song lyrics, music and visual art are deeply interconnected forms of creative expression that continually influence and inspire one another.

In this 2-week class, students will explore works from the Denver Art Museum collections and the *DIVA* exhibition, examining the many ways artists have drawn inspiration from music through a curated tour of selected pieces. Students will also reflect on the music that resonates with them personally, considering both the poetry of lyrics and the emotions conveyed through sound. Students will be guided, encouraged, and mentored through the process of creating their own mixed-media artworks connected to music.

### Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$165/ Member: \$170 / Student: \$170 / Non-Member: \$205

*\*The registration cost includes a Studio Fee for ticketed entry to *DIVA*, \$5 for Members, \$15 for Non-Members. And a \$30 Studio Fee for all materials provided.*

### 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](mailto: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 for this workshop and are included in the Studio Fee of \$30.

### **What to Expect:**

In the first class session, students will examine the connections between music and art through a curated tour of works in the DAM's permanent collections and *DIVA*. In the workshop, students will be introduced to the idea of using the stories and emotions of music to begin thinking about and sketching for their own artworks. They will be introduced to ideas of composition and thumbnail sketches.

In the second class session, students will use their ideas and sketches to create their own mixed media artworks inspired by the mood and feelings of a specific work of music or the poetry of music lyrics.

### **Timeline:**

#### **Week 1**

- Gallery visits to DAM collections and *DIVA*
- Sketching and discussion

#### **Week 2**

- Mixed media artwork creation inspired by sketches
- Class discussion and share out

### **Educator:**

Charis Fleshner's studio practice continuously explores ways to create visceral experiences through work that is interactive or teases viewers with the desire to experience layers of meaning and texture. As a conceptual artist, she enjoys expanded drawing and an interdisciplinary approach to artmaking. Materiality,

personal experience, object-oriented ontology, and craftivism are an integral part of her ideas and processes. Art is how Charis tries to comprehend life and the human condition. She teaches art at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado and at the Denver Art Museum. She earned her Master of Fine Art from University of New Mexico and has shown work both nationally and locally at Emmanuel Gallery, Museum of Art Fort Collins, and Art Gym. Charis has been awarded artist residencies at Elsewhere in Greensboro, North Carolina and Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico.

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

## 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](mailto:mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org).

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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