

Bio Art: Artmaking With Nature

Ruby Red Workshop
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
4-week session, August 18 – September 8, 2026
Educator: Lauri Lynnxe Murphy, lynnxe@gmail.com

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, work with foraged and harvested materials from nature, and will be encouraged to explore mediums through a conceptual and research-based lens. Students will discover new ways to look at art and will study Bio Artworks represented in the Denver Art Museum's collection by artists Ernesto Neto, Karen Kitchel, and others.

No prior technical knowledge or specific experience is required, though a sense of curiosity and willingness to explore will be richly rewarded. Students will experiment with new materials 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.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$150 / Member: \$155 / Student: \$155 / Non-Member: \$180
**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$20-40. The DAM will supply bulk materials for an included \$20 Studio Fee.*

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 TUESDAY 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:

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials cost is \$20-40. Additional materials will be supplied. All organic materials need to arrive and leave the workshop space in sealed containers or bags.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before picking up prior to the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Mini Microscope	1	Mini microscope lens
Glue Stick	1	UHU Stic Glue Sticks
X-Acto Knife	1	X-Acto #1 Knife
Sketchbook, size up to you	1	Canson XL Mixed Media Pads
Tweezer	1	Slant tweezer
Inks, Pastels, Brushes, etc.	1	Your choice of drawing tools!

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 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. Students 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 a lecture on materials, students will explore the sensory garden and learn about its creation, gently gathering deadheads, seeds and materials to use in artworks. This class focuses on "nature shopping" - looking at the materials that can be foraged from the wild and ways to use them.

Week 4

After an inspirational slide show of artists working with mushrooms, students will use spore prints that the instructor has previously 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.

Educator:

Lauri Lynnxe Murphy is a bio artist, sculptor, curator and writer living in Denver, Colorado. She received her Master of Fine Arts 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

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!