DENVER art MUSEUM

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DENVERARTMUSEUM.ORG

Drawing: Nature Journaling

Ruby Red Workshop
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
4-week session, March 16 – April 6, 2027
Educator: Anna Kaye, annalouisekaye@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this 4-week class students will take inspiration from the Denver Art Museum's Sensory Garden and collections to explore the link between creativity and the natural world. Students will experiment with a variety of drawing techniques and materials as they learn to look closely at details, patterns, and textures in nature. This class will give students the opportunity to engage their senses and connect more deeply with nature, grow observational skills, and use creative prompts to fill their journal with fascinating natural subjects.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: $130 / Member: $135 / Student: $135 / Non-Member: $160
**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend $20-30.*

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 THURSDAY 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 $20-30. Additional materials will be supplied.

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 website before picking up prior to the first day of class. Please search the *Meininger Class Kit* section on their website.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Journal or sketchbook	1	Up to you!
Colored Pencil Set	1 set	Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils – set of 12
Graphite Pencils	1 set	General's Kimberly Graphite Pencils and Sets

Note:
Feel free to supplement or substitute these materials with any drawing media you prefer. Additional materials such as watercolor, pastels, charcoal, etc. will be available for you to try.

What to Expect:

Students will gain a deeper appreciation for nature, through an opportunity to experiment with a variety of mark-making exercises and materials, building narratives through nature, and joy in association with the museum's spaces.

Students will be encouraged to experiment with different mediums in their sketches. They will fill their journals with a variety of creative prompts involving the museum's sensory garden as well as exhibits and artworks that include nature. Students will be creating many small experiments that will collectively create a final artwork in the form of an artist's nature journal.

Timeline:

Students will be given two prompts per class. They will choose one and can explore the second prompt if they finish early.

Week 1 – Sensory Garden

- Sketch your favorite plants and imagine shrinking to the size of a bee or butterfly. How would the garden look from their perspective? Include descriptive adjectives that illustrate how they might enjoy the garden.

  And/or

- Zoom in on the intricate patterns, textures, and shapes you observe. Record descriptive words inspired by the garden and reflect on which plants surprised you most or how their patterns made you feel.

Week 2 – Nature Journaling Scavenger Hunt

- Explore the museum through a series of 15–20 sketch prompts that encourage close observation, quick drawings, thoughtful notes, and new discoveries throughout the galleries.

Week 3 – Indigenous Arts of North America

- Discover how artists incorporate the natural world into their work. Consider: Which plants provided the materials? How does the artist honor nature? What plant or animal species can you identify?

Week 4 – Nature Journaling Around the Museum

- Wander the museum grounds, observing the connections between art, architecture, and the surrounding landscape. Sketch what captures your attention and reflect on questions such as:
  - How does the artwork change the way you notice the surrounding plants?
  - If a nearby plant could speak to a sculpture, what might it say?
  - Which natural forms resemble shapes found in the artwork?
  - How do art and nature complement one another?

Educator:

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 Bachelor of Science in geology and fine art at Skidmore College, NY. She continued her education at Yale in painting, drawing, printmaking, and photography. She earned her Master of Fine Arts 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.

annalouisekaye@gmail.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!