Art Making Sessions

Informational Sessions

1-Welcome: Conference Committee

2-Keynote Speaker - Ernest Banks

3-Ownership in the Classroom - Why do it all when students can do it for themselves? Create an art room where students take ownership, build community, and develop real life skills. Students pride themselves in taking ownership so why not transform them into studio members. I will discuss the things that have been working in my 9-12th grade art room. Such as setting routines, students supporting peers, taking pride in safety, utilizing community service to your advantage, and creating engaging extensions. You will leave with simple systems that help curate your classroom culture, increase independence, and give you more time to actually teach! A. Arteaga

4- From the Classroom to Crystal Bridges: Wild Arkansas: From Classroom to Crystal Bridges follows Natalie Miller and Aspen Ham, 2026 William S. Reese Teacher Fellows, as they share their fellowship journey and the development of Wild Arkansas. Through this project, students explored Arkansas through the integration of visual art, science, and English language arts, using research, observation, storytelling, and creative expression to develop meaningful connections to place. Participants will learn about the William S. Reese Teacher Fellowship, how it supported interdisciplinary and student-centered learning, and how an idea can grow from the classroom into an authentic community and museum partnership. Natalie Miller and Aspen Hamm

5 - PBL - Project Based Learning (PBL) is an excellent teaching method that emphasizes creativity, choice/student voice, investigation, and real world problem solving. In this session, I will share resources to help you start your own PBL journey, including fully completed projects from my own classroom that can be adapted for your students! I will also talk about my experience creating projects for programs like the Crystal Bridges Reese Fellowship, Art21 Educators, and the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes ARTEFFECT competition. R. Sparks

6 - Mapping the Self - This workshop is both discussion and art based, together we will unpack the role of the self as an educator, artist and researcher (in whatever form research takes for you). The presenters will discuss their practices and work and lead a making experience of mapping your own journey with paper and markers. This is an activity that can be duplicated in k-12 classrooms. K. Brown

7 - Artistic Behavior - We will examine how we can incorporate various centers in the classroom, have multiple styles and techniques, and how to share and critique our artworks. C. Barnes

8 - Ceramic Mosaics: Participants will design a unique mosaic, create their own ceramic tiles, and finish their artwork by learning how to grout their finished pieces. This hands-on, engaging project is easily adaptable for secondary ceramics and art classes, giving you a project you'll be excited to take back to your classroom! You may want to wear clothes that you don't mind getting a little messy! This is a hands-on session involving clay, adhesive, and grout. Aprons may be available. Danielle Hurst

9 - Cardboard Masks: Create an expressive cardboard mask inspired by Kimmy Cantrell, using bold shapes, patterns, and colors to make unique abstract faces. (Optional supplies: strong scissors for cardboard, X-acto knife) Jeri Newberry

10- Weaving Connection: Inspired by the NAEA Position Statement on Materiality and Sustainability in Art Education, this hands-on workshop explores sustainable weaving using repurposed materials such as T-shirts, fabric scraps, drawings, and magazines. Participants will learn basic weaving techniques, explore inclusive and cross-cultural classroom connections, and develop projects aligned with national and Arkansas Visual Art Standards. Optional materials are welcome, and each participant will receive a free 10×12” portable weaving loom kit and curricular resources.

11-Found Object Paint Brushes - Incorporate STEAM and critical thinking skills while creating paint brushes out of found objects. Learners will have access to a variety of commonly found, unconventional supplies. We will test our finished brushes to see which ones are effective and problem solve how to make them better. This lesson can be used for many grade levels. It was originally taught to 1st graders.G Levar

12 - 3-D Sketchbooks: Session will include learning 3 traditional book binding techniques with the addition of foam clay 3d elements. This is an introductory lesson I do with my beginner sculpture students. We discuss pros and cons of foam clay for modeling, methods of adding texture, and storage. Kelsey Whitaker

13-Argenta Arts District Tour: Guided walking tour of Artgenta Arts District including Thea Foundations, Acansa Gallery, Argenta Public Library Gallery. We will meet in the lobby.

14- Keynote Speaker: Korto Momolu

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16-Watercolor Choice Board: Come practice watercolor and like mediums. A choice board of painting projects and watercolor(+) techniques will be shared. Let's practice, create, and watercolor! M. Kew

17-Figure Drawing: Curious how to set up a live figure drawing session using student models? Want to include more figure drawing in your drawing curriculum and find out how to use it to develop better drawing habits in students? In this workshop you will learn how to set up a classroom for figure drawing without having to have special equipment, and learn how to work with students as models who have never done it before. This workshop will include timing procedures, using a model etiquette list of do's and don'ts for students to help them understand how to act when working with a live model, and how to integrate it into your curriculum (and grade it as well). You only need to bring yourself and a sketchbook/notebook and any drawing tools you may have. R. Bean

18-How to Make a Zine: A zine (pronounced “zeen”) is a small, self-published booklet that allows people to share their ideas, artwork, writing, opinions, or interests in a creative way. Zines are useful in the classroom because they give students a low-pressure way to express themselves while combining writing, drawing, design, and critical thinking. They encourage creativity, personal voice, and student choice while helping students practice communication and visual storytelling skills. K. Hooker

19-Collage Hearts: Using keepsakes or found materials to create a keepsake card/ornament with ribbon, pom-poms, cardboard, and glue...and a special message to someone from you. If you have some paper memorabilia or stickers you want to use for your special keepsake collage, bring it. I will have a primed cardboard heart, ribbons pre-cut, and pom-poms pre-cut along with plenty of papers, glue, markers, and stickers. L. Smoot

20-Autobiographic 4 Panel Comic: Tips for creating a 4 panel comic strip about your life. Ideas! Remember the essence of a funny or sad situation from your life.N. Harrington

21-Quilted Mosaics - In Quilted Mosaics we will be exploring an alternative way to create to looks of mosaics or stain-glass artwork. We will be discussing the process of transferring or drawing directly onto your surface (foam), crate the "binding" areas and creating these colorful and fun artworks. These can be as simple or as intricate you would like. Simple tools and simple process. This project can be used for a large range of students (Warning: x-acto knives are used in this project, small children might need assistance). J. Jumper

22 - Elevate Handbuilding: This presentation provides ideas, techniques and tools to elevate your ceramic handbuilding classes to the next level. I will talk about making and using colored slips and clays for Nerikomi and Neriagi, making and using templates, incorporating plaster batts, structuring lessons to provide the skills necessary to think bigger and more creatively, assessment strategies to meet students at their own levels and more! N. Buonaiuto

23 - Screams: The Making of a Series - A presentation on the steps to complete a large series of interrelated artwork to include idea conceptualization, studies, making, finishing, exhibiting. I will also ask participants to collaborate on my newest series, “Friends: Screaming and Laughing.” T. Richard

24 - Leadership Journey - This session is for anyone who is interested in learning about leadership opportunities on the Regional, State, and National Levels! I will guide you down a pathway that will help you build confidence in your own leadership abilities and find the best ways for you to make an impact in our professional organizations. No matter where you are at in your career, if you've ever wondered if you have what it takes to be a leader... you definitely do, and your perspective and experience are needed. R. Spark

25-Build a Sketchbook - Create a sketchbook using items you can find cheaply or have donated by your community! Leave with a lesson plan to create sketchbooks with students, ideas on using the sketchbook in class, and your very own sketchbook! What to know: You can stickers, cereal box, fun magazine pieces, etc. the covers are collage so anything you bring will just make your final book more unique! I will have supplies but bringing your own scissors/glue/double-sided tape might make your work faster! M. Self-Riggs

26- AMFA Info and Resources - Learn more about exciting educational offerings from the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock. Discover unique K-12 field trips, the annual "Young Arkansas Artists" exhibition, classroom resources, classes for both students and educators, and more. P. Graves

27-Screen Printing on a Budget - Ever wanted to do screen printing with your students, but don’t have the budget? Come to Screen Printing on a Budget, where participants will get a hands on experience with making their own screen print while learning ways to lower the cost for your own classes. Each participant will receive a full lesson plan, a piece of cloth for printing, and the knowledge that taking this back to their students will give them an experience they’ll never forget.A. Brantley Sage

28-Birds of a Word - Windgate Summer Art Launch is a professional development for Arkansas Art Educators hosted by Arkansas Tech University Art Department. In this session participants will receive information about Art Launch 2027 as well as experience one of Art Launch favorite workshops, Needle Felting! Participants will get a peek of what Art Launch has to offer! E. Bridges

29 - Printmaking - Discussing printmaking Champion Trees, as funded by a grant funded through the President's Foundation. A. Lemser

30-Make with Cardboard - I truly believe you can make anything out of cardboard from the most realistic figurative sculptures to fantastical and abstract forms. Learn cardboard, sculpture techniques, and best practices for these lesson lessons.. attendee will leave with an armature created from cardboard. K. York

31-Gelli Arts - This hands-on session introduces participants to the vibrant and versatile world of Gelli Arts printmaking. Using a Gelli Arts gel printing plate, attendees will explore monoprint techniques such as layering color, creating texture, and incorporating found objects and stencils to produce one-of-a-kind prints. The session emphasizes experimentation and creative risk-taking, making it accessible for beginners while still inspiring more experienced artists. Participants will leave with a collection of unique prints and practical strategies for bringing Gelli printing into their own classrooms or personal art practice.S. Shipley

32-Kinetic Sculpture - Artwork that moves! We will explore how to make movable artwork using handmade cranks, spindisks, slides, hinges, and more. I will show you how you can adapt these techniques into both 2D and 3D work for kinetic artworks that are fun to play with! People are encouraged to bring recycled materials if they would like to sculpt with them. C. Snow

33-Glo Themed Art Show - Explore how to create an interactive glow art show featuring black-light installations, glowing student projects, and hands-on experiences. Learn practical ideas for transforming any space into an immersive glow experience! Aprons are recommended C. Harry

34- Chinese Zodiac Paper Cuts - Chinese paper cut is a traditional folk art that uses the simple tools like scissors or knives to create intricate designs often symbolizing good fortune and happiness. This session will focus on Chinese Zodiac Animals as subjects. Participants are encouraged to bring a pencil, eraser, X-acto knife, scissors, ruler, and self-healing mat. T. Harrington

35-Sew Much Fun - Creating quilts and other items with your students is a fantastic way of engaging them in so many different ways! Not only will you have the opportunity to do a little sewing, but you'll get ideas on how to incorporate sewing into your classes, and information on how to start a sewing club in your own school. C. Porter

36 - ART AFTER DARK: Blick Night - Glow Paper Mosaics

Friday

37-43 - Regional Meetings

44-Keynote Speaker: Joel Boyd

45 - AP Portfolios - Give update, answer questions, give tips for AP and Design Portfolio. J. McCann

46 - Folding Boys Back into School - Learn how to use origami to get boys (and girls) engaged in your class. Practice making very simple to more complex sculptures to take examples back to your class.

Participants are encouraged to bring scissors. S.A. McCoy

47-Wings of Keepingness: Funding Inclusive Fiber Arts for Empathy and Belonging - Funding opportunities for inclusive art education curriculum will be shared alongside a funded secondary fiber arts project, Wings of Keepingness. This curriculum fosters empathy and belonging through collaborative textile installation and emotional expression. The work aligns with NAEA strategic visions and Arkansas Department of Education G.U.I.D.E. for Life standards. A. LaPorte

48-Advocating for GT Students - Learn how you can have a voice in advocating for and helping identify talented and gifted learners. C. Massingill

49-Blooming Together - This presentation explores how eco-art and nature-based artmaking can foster ecological awareness, creative thinking, and deeper connections to the living world. Inspired by Arkansas ecosystems, participants use natural and recycled materials while exploring native pollinators through hands-on artmaking, observation, and reflection. The project encourages curiosity, environmental empathy, and awareness of biodiversity in meaningful and accessible ways. A. Kinsizer

50-SOS Clay - S.O.S. stands for Simple, Original and Successful. Easy enough for any art skill level including teen/adult special education, or your art club, or even a staff art PD! G. Booth

51-Ghanian Art: Introducing Contemporary Ghanian Artists in Your Art Room - Explore the work of contemporary Ghanian artists that can inspire works in clay, textiles, printmaking, and more. You may want to bring something to take notes. M.A. Davis

52-Functional Ceramics - Participants will use a template and clay to create small functional pieces. If you have a kiln, you may take your pieces with you after the session. If you do not have a kiln, we can fire it for you and you will pick up at Maumelle High. Participants env=couraged to bring your own clay tools and a box/cardboard if you are taking your piece with you. Y. Mallett

53-Monoprinting with Geli Plates = Elevate your students geli plate prints with Akua Inks. Explore color layering, block outs, color schemes, and texture using Akua Inks giving your prints an elevated fine arts feel. You can bring any textured materials that you think would make an interesting impression in your prints. M. Young

54- Methylcellulose Magic - S. Walters

55-57 Grade Level Lesson Share

58 - Preservice & 1st Year Luncheon

59 - AYAA - Information, updates, and Q&A about AYAA. J. McCann

60 - Youth Art Month - This presentation will provide an overview of the 2027 Youth Art Month, including participation guidelines, submission theme, and strategies for increasing student entries. The session will focus on celebrating student creativity and encouraging greater statewide involvement in Youth Art Month. J. Solano

61 - Art Contests - I will be sharing information about different art contests that are for all grade levels. I will provide a handout with all the dates and contacts for each contest. L. Collier

62 - Pyrolysis - Through incorporating other subjects into the foundation of my lessons, students were able to create artworks from the very beginning of the process; making their medium. We learned about and then made our very own vine charcoal, then students learned about subtractive drawing and used their own products to create beautiful artwork! S. Howe

63 - Building Lessons One Brushstroke at a Time - After teaching my first Painting course, I found great joy in the lessons I taught and the meaningful progress my students make across mediums and idea process. Join me to explore lesson ideas and bring some of yours to share! M. Kew

64-Roots of Pursuance: Making Space for Belonging in the Art Classroom - In this session, the presenters will share outcomes from their collective research on anti-racism in art education. Their work describes Roots of Pursuance, which include: Love, The Collective, Racialized Embodiment, Finding Home, and Willfulness. In the presentation, these concepts will be defined. We will discuss ways in which the roots of pursuance might serve as a foundation for teaching and learning practices in K-12 art classrooms that create space for belonging for everyone. E. Hood

65-Sock Monsters - Learn how how teach hand stitched monsters out of socks with a narrative component. C. Massingill

66-Chihuly Inspired Bouquets - Atteendees will learn about a community-based project between a university art museum, child care center, and university art class, and create their own Chihuly inspired bouquets from recycled plastic bottles. Participants encouraged to bring scissors and recycled plastic bottles. S. Whiteland

67-Squeegy Squad - Cone learn tips & tricks for printing with Speedball Speed Screens. We will experiment by printing on tote bags. K. Smith-Johnson

68-Thinking Inside the Box - In this hands-on workshop, K–12 art educators will explore Cornell boxes as a creative tool for arts-integrated learning. Inspired by Joseph Cornell, participants will use assemblage and found objects to tell stories, express ideas, and make connections across content areas. Teachers will create their own shoebox-sized Cornell boxes while exploring classroom applications that support creativity, reflection, student voice, and connections to literacy, social studies, science, and art history. Feel free to bring any small items you'd like to include, but plenty of materials will be provided.A. Wenzel (A+)

69-Needle Felting - Windgate Summer Art Launch is a professional development for Arkansas Art Educators hosted by Arkansas Tech University Art Department. In this session participants will receive information about Art Launch 2027 as well as experience one of Art Launch favorite workshops, Needle Felting! Participants will get a peak of what Art Launch has to offer! G. Dover

70-Clay Surfaces - We will focus of various surface decorations of greenwear. We will use undergalzes to layer complex surface treatment and do several printing techniques. We will explore darting to create vessels. E. Petroukhina

71-Illuminated Letter - Discover the history written into your own identity. This project connects etymological research with basic calligraphic techniques. Elevate the narrative of your name into a striking, personalized piece of fine art. Participants are encouraged to bring sharpie markers, watercolor palettes or pencils, and #2 pencils.

S. Porter

72-RAFFLE/INFO ON AAE/PRESIDENT FOUNDATION