

Summer Courses for Teachers

An Ecological Approach to Art Education

Course Offered: July 27 – 31 and August 3-7, 2009

Course Site: Burnt Island Light Station, Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Curriculum by: Elaine Jones, Education Director, Maine Department of Marine Resources

Credits: 4.5 CEU's (\$500) or 3 Graduate Credits (\$1,602)

Rationale

Imagine yourself on a five-acre, coastal island - hearing the waves crashing against the rocks; smelling the aroma of the salt air; strolling across the rockbound shoreline; and experiencing the solitary life of a lighthouse keeper. All of these experiences, senses, and moments can be captured through the visual arts and transferred to your classroom as a result of this professional development course for teachers.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources has transformed the Burnt Island Light Station into an outstanding educational facility. The agency's Education Division utilizes the five-acre island to host numerous educational programs. *An Ecological Approach to Art Education* will provide teachers with experiential learning in art education as related to Maine's marine environment and maritime history. Through works of art, participants will document and communicate to others the value and the necessity of preserving the island's natural beauty and its historic buildings.

All activities are aligned with the Maine Learning Results and the Discipline-Based Art Education theory. The course is available to teachers of all grade levels with an interest in art education. Free transportation to and from the island is included, along with free housing in the island's Education Center or tent sites. For more information, visit www.maine.gov/dmr/burntisland/courses/index.htm

Primary Instructors

Elaine Jones, Education Director for the Maine Department of Marine Resources

Robert Mitchell, Professional Photographer (www.mitchellphoto.com)

Robert McKay (retired, Troll Publisher) and Tamara Jones (graphic artist for L.L. Bean),

Michael Vermette, Artist, Instructor, and Art Educator (www.michaelevermette.com)

Donald Demers, Artist and Workshop Instructor (www.donalddemers.com)

Wendy Libby, Art Educator and author

Kelly Desrosiers, Art Educator

Field Trip

Monhegan Island

Class Schedule

This week-long residential course is based at the Burnt Island Light Station in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Instruction will begin at 8:30 AM with activities continuing into the evening hours. Participants are expected to complete assignments; participate in all classroom and field activities; and engage in discussions and critiques.

Required Supplies

Digital Camera, operational manual, and connector cord to download images

Art supplies: list of materials will be provided in the registration packet

Required Textbook

Enriching the Curriculum with Art Experiences by Wendy Libby

Share Fair Assignment

Ocean art project with instructions and materials for Friday's class.

Prerequisites

Know Basic Camera Functions and be familiar with your own equipment.

Know basic drawing and painting techniques.

Evaluation Criteria

Assignments 50%

Participation 50%

Course Assignments will include photographs, watercolor paintings, pastel paintings, and art projects.

Class participation will be evaluated based on the quality and consistency of contribution to the training sessions and discussion forum.

Course Topics and Objectives

Day 1

9:00 AM Arrival at the Department of Marine Resources Laboratory in W. Boothbay Harbor, Maine.
Check in at the Aquarium, load the boat, and travel out to Burnt Island.

Introduction to the Natural and Maritime History of Burnt Island

The five-acre island in Boothbay Harbor is rich in environmental, cultural, and geological resources. In order to familiarize participants with their surroundings, a guided tour of the island will take place shortly after arrival. This experience will increase awareness of Burnt Island's natural wonders and historic past, plus set the stage for an extraordinary week of learning.

Objectives

1. Acquaint participants with Burnt Island's habitats: rocky shore, intertidal zone, gravel beach, mudflat, and maritime forest.
2. Acquaint participants with representative flora and fauna found in each habitat.
3. Learn about the history of the Burnt Island Light Station while touring the historic buildings.

Principles of Photography

Instructor Robert Mitchell

Professional photographer Bob Mitchell will introduce participants to the basics of photography. They will learn tips and techniques as related to their camera and its use in the field.

Objectives

1. Review traditional and digital methods of image making.
2. Learn the basics of photography: exposure, depth of field, lighting, etc.
3. Learn the basic rules of composition while viewing the instructor's photographs.
4. Recognize how to communicate environmental issues through photographic imagery.
5. Operate camera after becoming familiar with its parts and settings.

Photographing the Marine Environment

Photography is used to preserve memories of favorite times; to capture special moments; to tell stories, to send messages; and to serve as a source of entertainment. On Burnt Island, it can be used as an important tool to show appreciation and encourage preservation of the island and its resources.

Objectives

1. Explore and discover the wonders of the island's natural world and its historic past.
2. Maintain a field journal to record camera settings, observations, and descriptions.
3. Complete the following assignments:
 - a. Use light, shadow, and shape as part of the composition
 - b. Capture the lighthouse as a legendary symbol of strength
 - c. Photograph organisms interacting
 - d. Tell a story about the marine environment
 - e. Locate a geological formation that captures your imagination
 - f. Use stems or trunks to frame a picture
 - g. Photograph a "bee-eye" view of a flower
 - h. Record human impact upon the environment
 - i. Produce an image that follows the "rule of thirds"
 - j. Capture a geometric pattern in nature

Critiquing Photographs

Participants will download and review their images on provided laptop computers. The instructor will critique the photographs and determine if they meet the assigned criteria. Suggestions will be made on how to improve the "art of seeing."

Evening Activity - Adobe Photoshop

Instructors: Bob McKay and Tamara Jones

Photoshop is the ultimate graphics program. Although it's mainly used for photo-retouching and image manipulation, one can also use it to create original art, either from scratch or based on a photograph. Participants will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop to alter and enhance their digital images.

Objectives

1. Understand the different tools and features available in Photoshop to edit photographs.
2. Manipulate and enhance photographs
3. Add type to photographs
4. Learn to use layers
5. Print favorite photograph using a photo printer.

Day 2

Discovery and Discussion

Art and Ecology: Curriculum Integration

In art education, action-oriented inquiry is a useful strategy for thinking critically about how art, aesthetics, culture, and ecology are interdependent. Unique experiences inspire learners to respond, document, and share their vision with others.

1. What natural phenomena are present on Burnt Island?
2. What approaches can be used to integrate ecology into the art curriculum?
3. How does one develop a community-based component to the curriculum?

Pastel Painting

Instructor: Michael Vermette

In supportive plein-air and studio environments, participants will learn how to prepare their own pastel paper and utilize techniques by professional “pastel Painters.” The focus will be on capturing the essence of Burnt Island while exploring the use of line, color, form, texture and spatial relationships that make an effective composition. Participants will be shown a technical demonstration on applying pastels, followed by an on-location demonstration with the instructor pastel painting with the students. They will also be shown how to store, preserve and frame their works to enjoy for years to come.

Objectives

1. Examine the types of pastels (soft, hard, pencils, conte crayons, and oil)
2. Review the elements and principles of composition.
3. Observe the instructor’s approach to capturing light and color.
4. Observe painting techniques such as: blending, overlaying, blocking in, building up, linear marks, pointillism, highlights, gradation, scraffito, feathering, scumbling, erasing, and frottage.
5. Learn about fixatives and how to apply them.

Painting

After having been introduced to the techniques of pastel painting, participants will spend the remainder of the day creating their own works of art. Techniques and concepts will be reinforced as the instructor visits and guides each person.

Objectives

1. Choose painting sites that accurately depict:
 - a. A sense of rhythm and movement
 - b. An emotional reaction to the environment
 - c. A portrait of the Lighthouse Keeper

Evening Activity

Free Time

Day 3 - Watercolor Painting

Instructor: Don Demers

The purpose of this one-day workshop is to examine and document the island's environment through the medium of watercolor. Participants will be drawn closer to the coastal setting as they observe, record, and draw conclusions about the natural and cultural resources of Burnt Island.

Demonstration

Exploring subjects through two dimensional media such as watercolor requires a translation of the subject matter into a visual language. The instructor will demonstrate this translation from the subject matter onto the painted page during the morning session.

Objectives

1. Learn about the principles of composition and how to apply it to the setting.
2. Analyze the outdoor scene in terms of light and shadow patterns.
3. Understand how to utilize the Elements of Design (line, volume/mass, shape, value, space, color, proportion, scale, rhythm, unity, and variety) in compositions.
4. Observe the instructor's demonstration of watercolor techniques, methods of painting, and the methods to correct mistakes.

Painting

After having been introduced to some of the techniques of watercolor painting, participants will spend the remainder of the day pursuing their own interpretations of the island environment. Techniques and concepts will be reinforced as the instructor visits and guides each person.

Objectives

1. Choose sites that allow the artist to create works of art that accurately depict:
 - a. Seascape (rocks and waves)
 - b. Lighthouse (or other historic building)
 - c. Personal choice

Critique

The day will conclude with brief critiques and discussions of the day's portrayals. Artists will share their completed work and verbalize their successes and difficulties. The instructor and fellow students will offer suggestions on how to technically improve each work of art.

Evening Activity

For more than 100 years, Monhegan Island has been a summer haven for artists who appreciate its isolation, its wilderness areas, its quiet relaxed atmosphere, and its unhurried pace. A slide show of Monhegan will familiarize participants with its history as an art colony and with its physical layout.

Day 4 - Trip to Monhegan Island

Participants will board the Balmy Days II at 9:00 AM out of Boothbay Harbor for a 1.5 hour trip to Monhegan. While on the island, participants will be free to spend the day photographing and/or painting breathtaking sites.

Objectives - Artist's Choice

1. Capture the rugged beauty of Monhegan Island.
2. Capture the charm of its fishing shacks and the culture of its people.
3. Visit sites depicted by famous artists, the lighthouse, and/or the art museum

Evening – Dinner on your own in Boothbay Harbor

Day 5

Share Fair - *The Sea Comes to the Classroom*

Today's children spend half as much time outdoors as children did 20 years ago. A field trip to the ocean or bringing the sea to the classroom would reconnect children to nature.

Instructor: Kelly Desrosiers

Classroom Teacher Kelly Desrosiers will share her own experiences of integrating ecology into her art lessons. After participating in a teacher course on Burnt Island in 2008, she developed a unit entitled: *The Coast of Maine: Using Art to Study Our Natural Resources*. Kelly will share her unit and its lessons that focus on lighthouses, boats, rocks, and waves.

Instructor: Wendy Libby

Art Teacher of the Year (2005) Wendy Libby will share her experience of writing three books relating to art education: *Enriching the Curriculum with Art Experiences*, *Using Art to Make Art: Creative Activities Using Masterpieces*, and *Using Stories to Make Art: Creative Activities Using Children's Literature*. She will also share examples of marine-related art that she has successfully used in the classroom. Wendy has over 30 years of experience teaching in the Bangor School System.

Teacher Share Fair

Activities that connect the sea to the classroom will be shared by all participants. Work stations will be established in the Education Center with instructions and materials to create chosen works of art.

Elaine Jones will have materials and instructions for the following ocean art projects:

- foam puppets
- copper fish
- shell ornaments
- fish prints

Week in Review

Evaluation of Course

Pack-up and Return to the Mainland