



Meet the Instructors

MOSHIER ART CENTER

Amaranta Ibarra-Sandys

is a South Seattle-based teaching artist, mixed media artist, advocate, and consultant. She graduated from the Instituto de Bellas Artes in Mexico City in Ceramics and Folk Art. She uses her artistic platform, as a tool for social change in the hopes of inspiring others to have a fulfilling purpose in life. She has been teaching at Moshier Art Center for the last 15 years.

Amaranta teaches: Teen Wheel, Adult Art, and Ceramic workshops at Moshier Art Center.



Tammie Dupuis

"As a mixed-blood artist, I explore an array of mediums and create work using both Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of seeing and making. In my practice, I investigate the themes of visibility/invisibility and recognizability/unrecognizability through my intercultural lens. I primarily teach painting and drawing and have worked at Moshier for almost four years."

Tammie teaches Adult Art Classes at Moshier Art Center and Burien Community Center.



Vicki Hamilton

"I've been making pots for about 60 years....functional work for the most part. To my knowledge, my pots have gone to Japan, Italy, England, Canada, North Carolina, Hawaii, Rhode Island, California, Montana, Colorado, Minnesota, and Michigan. High School is where I learned how to make pots. I then attended the California College of Art & Craft and have been mentored by some amazing potters including- Warren MacKenzie, Karen Karnes, Tony Clennell, and Ellen Shankin, to name a few. I began teaching children and adults in California in the early 80s and have taught at Moshier since 2004."

Vicki teaches Adult Ceramic Classes at Moshier Art Center.



Thorly James

has been working with clay as a sculptural medium since college in 1980, but credits learning and encouragement from many wonderful local artists for launching her figurative animal sculptures. She started showing her work from coast to coast while as a Resident at Seward Park Clay Studio. She's inspired by the wonders of the natural world, especially the stories and beautiful forms of wildlife. When she doesn't have her hands in clay at her home studio, she volunteers as a Marine Naturalist, Salmon Surveyor, and Riparian Restoration Lead. She loves to share the joy of artistic exploration with clay, and shortly after moving to Burien, started teaching at Moshier in 2018.

Thorly teaches Adult Ceramic Classes at Moshier Art Center.



Molly Huebbed

has been teaching ceramics for over 18 years. Her love for the ocean and a background in science are reflected in her work with color, textures, and design. "I love to paint and create designs on my pieces. I will forever be a student of clay, as it continues to teach me new things."

Molly teaches Adult Ceramic Classes at Moshier Art Center.



Christine Stratton

Art and creating are a major part of Christine's identity. She is inspired by many materials. Her recent focus has been on landscaping, ceramics, mosaic, sewing, and knitting. Christine has a BFA with an emphasis in Sculpture and with Minors in Art History and Psychology from WSU. As a lifetime learner and sculptor, she is always seeing new possibilities in her materials, and loves sharing the experience of creating. Christine started teaching at Moshier in 2022.

Christine teaches Adult Art classes at Moshier Art Center.



Ryan McDonald

"Hello my name is Ryan McDonald, and I began my journey in ceramics around 2006 at Green River College. This is my first-year teaching at Moshier after taking classes here for a while before and after the pandemic's height. In addition to teaching, I work locally as a studio manager, and I maintain my own practice as a potter in a rented space in West Seattle."

Ryan teaches Adult Ceramic classes at Moshier Art Center.



Alec Davis

has an undergraduate degree in Art Education. He taught art for several public-school systems. He has an MFA in Ceramics from George Washington University. Alec started teaching at Moshier in 2013.

Alec teaches Adult Ceramic Classes at Moshier Art Center.



Debbie Thoma

"I am an artist, an arts advocate, and a creativity encourager. For more than 25 years, I've enjoyed leading art activities and classes for children in the Burien community. I've worked with hundreds of young artists through the PTA's Reflections Arts Program; Burien's Arts-A-Glow, Dia de los Muertos and Day of Play; as an Art Docent at local elementary schools; and as a teaching assistant for Arts Corps programs in visual arts and hula dance. Since 2015, I've been leading after school art classes and summer camps for Burien Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services enjoying every minute of it. I love encouraging students to explore the creativity that is inside of them, so that they can express themselves as artists."

Debbie teaches Youth Art Classes and camps at Moshier Art Center.



Jess Marie Griffith

"My family immersed me in art and sewing from a young age in the Pacific Northwest. At university, I studied art in Seattle and New York. I took a hiatus from painting to pursue leatherwork designs in the form of bags and wallets. Five years later I closed my leather design business and picked up my watercolors again. Now, I share my skills in both mediums to the Burien and Seattle communities. For over five years, I have taught at various organizations such as the Frye Art Museum, Coyote Central, and Gage Academy of Art. I'm excited to now be offering classes at Moshier as well. I live in Burien with my artist husband, son, two cats, and three chickens."

Jess teaches Adult Art Classes at Moshier Art Center.



Anika Major

is a Texas-born artist living in Seattle, Washington. She received her BFA in Ceramics and Painting from the University of North Texas in 2018. Anika has been teaching with Moshier since 2019, and she maintains a full-time studio practice alongside teaching, studio management, and clay equipment repair. Anika combines her love of clay and figure painting in her colorful painted pots, created using thrown and handbuilt methods of production. In her studio practice, she is currently developing larger forms using handbuilding, and decorating sets with queer and western themed narratives.

Anika teaches Adult Ceramic classes and workshops at Moshier Art Center.



Janet Crawley

Kansas City native Janet Crawley's love of the natural world is reflected in the textured and organic surfaces of her hand-built work. Her teaching reflects her playful and whimsical approach to life. Janet's been sharing her combined passion for yoga and ceramic arts with Burien students since 2004.

Janet teaches Adult Ceramic classes at Moshier Art Center.



Bill Gravengood

"I'm a potter and painter living in West Seattle. My love of ceramics started in the 70's, but, because I had been living in Italy for many years, have only had the chance to work continuously in clay for the last 10 years or so. My work is simple and functional, made to be picked up and used. I work with low-fire and mid-range clay bodies with designs that try to integrate with the form and express some of the motifs I find interesting in painting. I teach wheel throwing and hand building and have studio space in Burien, WA."

Bill teaches Adult Ceramic classes at Moshier Art Center.



Sally Anderson

started taking ceramic classes with Moshier Art Center in the 90's for a creative outlet as she worked as a Landscape Architect. When she retired from her job in 2010, she began assisting and teaching Clay Camps during the summer for 6- to 10-year-old children. Sally enjoys working with children and helping them explore techniques of building with clay and producing imaginative creations. Beyond working with children, Sally is an accomplished ceramic artist. She explores forms in both throwing and hand building. Some of her creations are functional, while others are artistic forms.

Sally teaches youth ceramic classes and camps at Moshier Art Center



Jen Mills

"I have been teaching ceramics for over 15 years and am thrilled to be teaching at Moshier since 2022. I am a big fan of clay: it's not only fun, relaxing, and a great teacher, but it also has so many therapeutic qualities. We feel better when we use our hands to create and there's a sense of pride to be able to use and enjoy something we made. I encourage my students to bring their own voice and interests into their work, to think outside the box and be open to inspiration.

Jen has an MFA in Ceramics from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and has been a visiting artist and lecturer at Wayne State University, and Wichita State University. She has taught at Pottery Northwest, Seward Park Clay Studio, Kirkland Arts Center, Rain City Clay and South Seattle College. She lives in West Seattle with her wife and 10-year-old son."

Jen teaches Adult Ceramic Classes at Moshier Art Center.



Juliann Choe

is a Southern-grown and Pacific Northwest planted artist. She has a BFA in painting, a Master's in Art Education, and a decade of experience teaching artists of all ages. Juliann adamantly believes everyone is an artist and loves teaching others how to strengthen their authentic creativity. Her paintings and pottery celebrate the landscapes we call home with vibrant color and whimsical abstraction.

Juliann teaches Youth classes at Moshier Art Center



Tara Zumpano

is a Burien based artist with 20+ year roots in drawing, painting, printmaking & graphic design. Working mainly in acrylic, she is eager to unravel the facets of light, shape, color, composition & gesture. Her hope is that in making space for shared creative experiences, together, we can discover new meanings, reinforce cultural connection, and have wide impact on the community.

Tara teaches Adult Art classes at Moshier Art Center.



Stephanie Savino

has been a public-school art teacher for 17 years, instructing courses in drawing, painting, mixed media, and ceramics. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from University of Puget Sound and a Bachelor of Arts from Buffalo State College. She enjoys reading, painting anything she can get her hands on, and spending time with her family and pets.

Stephanie teaches Youth classes at Moshier Art Center



Drew Nicklas

"I have been teaching ceramics and making pots in Seattle for the last 15 years or so.

I love introducing new students to clay and working with lifelong students to refine the craft. I am always amazed how the simple act of coming together to make pots builds community and lasting friendships. I am also a big fan of final class potlucks!"

Drew teaches Adult Ceramic classes at Moshier Art Center



Maria G. Casey

is an avid artist with an extensive background teaching a variety of artistic techniques. She has a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Universidad Femenina de Mexico, a Diplome' de Maitre de Formation de Pebeo in Art from Provence France and two certifications in Children with Special Needs: Physical Disabilities and The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) from NAMI EASTSIDE (National Alliance on Mental Illness). She is the founder and principal instructor of The Fat Brush Art Workshop where she offers a variety of workshops for children, young people, adults, and persons with special needs. She has experience teaching art on TV shows, schools in WA State, public and private libraries, non-profit events and organizations and hospitals. She promotes the use of recycled materials to create art while raising awareness of taking care of our planet and is convinced that art contributes to physical and emotional well-being of people.

Maria teaches Specialized Recreation Art classes at Moshier Art Center

Adventure

"My sister describes me as a faerie gypsy. Others have called me a yogi, an artist, an animal whisperer, a tree hugger, or even a healer. But I'm just Adventure. I love life, art, music, play, and connection."

Adventure teaches Specialized Recreation Art and Music classes at Moshier Art Center.

