

I started creating art at the age of five when I found a pile of sawdust and absconded with a bottle of Elmer's glue from my house and proceeded to create sculptures by mixing the sawdust with the glue. It created inner joy for me and positive attention from my parents. It was a revelation to me that I could receive positive accolades for behavior that had typically landed me in hot water. Art experiences for me in Casper, Wyoming as a child consisted exclusively in the form of random craft and art classes held at the local park in the summer. It was not until high school that I was able to take art from a certified teacher.

After high-school I married and began raising a family while farming and ranching in North Dakota. I found solace in the local art association which would sponsor local artists to give art workshops on various media. I served as an officer on the local arts council which led to an appointment by the Governor to the state arts agency, the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Simultaneously I began teaching artist in residence art programs in local schools. A request to teach elementary art at the tribal school on the Spirit Lake Reservation led me to pursue my art education degree at the age of 40. Being an advocate and art teacher influenced my pursuit in providing art experiences for schools lacking art programs. The memory of limited art opportunities in my youth inspired me to create an online art class for high school credit, delivered asynchronously through several incarnations of learning management systems and websites.

The duality of being an advocate and art teacher has pushed my personal art making to the background of my artistic journey. My current goal for my online course is to research methods to deliver a more unique approach using contemporary artists and idea based lessons, while delivering the needed methods for studio production. I will use my personal art making to facilitate reaching that goal.