



Juneau Arts and Humanities Council – Juneau School District
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

2009-10 TEACHING ARTIST PROFILE and APPLICATION

Name: **Katherine (Kathy) Hocker**
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Preferred Method for contact: email or phone

I am available to work/teach

in 1 - 2 week residency period only
 can work 1 day/week for a month or more

I am flexible, could work different times
 could work part days, different times

1. Arts Education and/or arts background

I am a freelance science illustrator, with a graduate certificate from UC Santa Cruz in Science Communication.

2. ART FORM(s) and AGE OF STUDENTS you are interested in working with

My lessons **integrate science and art**, addressing in particular the inquiry aspect of science.

- Science illustration: taking students through the process of creating illustrations of science subjects. (I particularly enjoy working with small groups of students to create publications such as books or brochures).
- Nature journals/science journals: Establishing and keeping journals of observation and reflection.

I prefer to work with grades 3-12 but have worked with K-2.

3. What themes, concepts, experiences do you want to share with students?

Careful observation is a crucial skill for critical thinking, as well as a fundamental building block for creating art. My primary goal is to help students get into the habit of observing carefully, and of thinking about what they have observed, as they draw.

I also hope to give students tools to strengthen their life drawing skills, and to inspire excitement and interest in making journal-keeping a lifelong habit.

4. Prior teaching experiences (apart from residencies)

- Taught full time for three semesters at Whiskeytown Environmental School, Redding, CA (1991-1992).
- Half-time instructional aide in Gastineau preschool (fall 1992)
- Taught nature studies classes for Discovery Southeast (Mendenhall River School 1994-1996, Juneau Community Charter School, 1998-2004)
- Teach a summer course at University of Alaska: “Field Sketching and Nature Drawing” (2004-present)



5. Why do you want to teach the arts in Juneau schools?

I enjoy the chance to show how art can be integrated with science, and have always enjoyed working with Juneau teachers and students. I always learn from these experiences, and am humbled by the work the students do, and by their quick minds and often-surprising observations.

6. Past Experience with Artist in the Schools residencies:

NOTE: I've done quite a bit of art teaching in the schools, but not necessarily through formal residency programs. I'm listing below the ones I remember as being through AIS. I've also done extended (non-AIS) art teaching stints at Glacier Valley, Floyd Dryden, and Evergreen Elementary (Wrangell).

Date	School/ Grades	School Location	Length of Residency	Art Form(s)
2003	Auke Bay/3-5	Juneau	3 weeks (?)	Nature journals/field sketching
2003	Riverbend/1-5	Juneau	3 weeks (?)	Nature journals/field sketching
2005	Mendenhall River/K-5	Juneau	3 weeks	Nature journals/field sketching
2007	Gustavus School/K-12	Gustavus	2 weeks(?)	Nature journals/field sketching
2008	Adults (teachers)	Floyd Dryden	3 classes	Basic life drawing (for teachers); offered through Partners In Education
2009	Harborview/1-5	Juneau	3 weeks	Science journals
2009	Gastineau/3-5	Juneau	3 weeks	Nature journals/science illustration

7. Have you been part of the Juneau Teaching Artist workshop series?

Yes, whole series Yes, some of the workshops No, not yet

Only one of the workshops... but would very much like to attend more.

8. 3 REFERENCES

Kathy Obersinner (kathleen_obsinner@jsd.k12.ak.us)
 Harborview School
 10014 Crazy Horse Drive
 Juneau, AK 99801
 (907)523-1850

Kris Gress (kristeen_gress@jsd.k12.ak.us)
 2563 Meadow Lane
 Juneau, AK 99801
 (907)789-2861

Vickie Taylor (vbt@wrangellschools.org)
 PO Box 2076
 Wrangell, AK 99929
 (907)874-2402

9. Other Comments that help illuminate your work or life as an artist???

I grew up in a family of teachers, and used to swear that I'd never be a teacher. I always loved art, but didn't think I'd ever really be an artist. And I loved science but never felt like I fit in to the "traditional" science career path. Now I find myself being a little bit of all three, and rather enjoying it.

