# Creative Programming *Catalog*

2027



FLAME TIP
STUDIO


**Jenny Santa Maria**

TEACHING ARTIST & SPECIAL EDUCATOR



# Hi, I'm Jenny!

Perhaps my greatest gift is bringing out the gifts in others. Since earning my Masters in Art Education and Special Education in 2013, I've worked with adults, mature adults and underprivileged teens; populations often challenged by anxiety, self-doubt and perfectionism. After more than a decade in special education, I shifted my focus to what I believe is the most underserved population in the arts- the general public. Across 9 counties in New Jersey, these workshops are celebrated for their welcoming atmosphere, clear coaching-style instruction, and an emphasis on social-emotional wellbeing.

All programs are fully mobile. I provide all artist-grade supplies, treat each venue as if it were my own, and ensure programs finish promptly with the space left clean. By arranging the tables in a U-shape, I aim to create space for conversation and connection. Those familiar with my teaching style know that they'll not only learn a skill, but often make a friend in the process.

It's a privilege to witness participants move past their limiting beliefs and discover there is no such thing as a "non-artist"- only artists with something in their way. In a culture that often feels rushed and disconnected, I believe the arts remind us to slow down, express ourselves in healthy ways, and cultivate the curiosity, flexibility, and openness that allow us to see beyond what we already know. Just as importantly, art brings us together, creating opportunities to connect with our neighbors and strengthen the communities we call home.

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STUDIO

# Creative Programs
## for Adults and Mature Adults

| PROGRAM | FEE (all materials included) |
|---|---|
| **The Secrets to Realistic Drawing**<br><br>Never taken an art class before? Want to produce realistic work? This hands-on workshop was designed especially for "non-artists" to learn the timeless techniques artists have used for centuries to produce lifelike charcoal drawings. Working from carefully curated still lifes featuring bones, fruits, flowers, and other seasonal objects, you'll learn how to create depth, form, and convincing shadows using charcoal. Led by Teaching Artist Jenny Santa Maria, you'll uncover the secrets to creating beautifully rendered drawings that look like the work of a seasoned artist, all in a single session. Discover the joy of drawing from life and the confidence that comes with learning a new way to see.<br>*(Compliments the 2027 Library Summer Reading Theme: Mysteries Await)* | $350<br>for up to 20 registrants |
| **Lecture & Art Making: The Untold Stories Behind Great Works of Art**<br><br>What if the secrets behind some of the world's greatest masterpieces lie in the remarkable lives of the artists who created them? Join Teaching Artist Jenny Santa Maria as we uncover the surprising stories behind celebrated works of art, tracing them back to the chance encounters, unexpected discoveries, and extraordinary circumstances that contributed to their greatness. Michelangelo's childhood among stonecutters, Picasso's path to Cubism, Georgia O'Keeffe's inner world, and Basquiat's fascination with anatomy each reveal something extraordinary about the relationship between art and life. Experience art history in a whole new light as we reveal how life shapes art, and art, in turn, shapes a life. Then, put inspiration into practice with a hands-on art-making experience as we recreate Picasso's iconic Girl Before a Mirror, exploring his revolutionary approach to color, form, and perspective.<br>*(Compliments the 2027 Library Summer Reading Theme: Mysteries Await)* | $400<br>for up to 20 registrants |
| **Art for the "Non-Artist"**<br><br>Discover why this creative empowerment workshop has been celebrated across New Jersey as an ideal introduction to artmaking! Designed especially for those who don't consider themselves artists, this hands-on experience introduces the fundamentals of observational drawing as you create your own beautifully realistic feather drawing using Prismacolor colored pencils. Teaching Artist Jenny Santa Maria will guide you step by step, demonstrating how artists learn to truly see the world around them while encouraging a growth mindset and meaningful conversations about creativity. Whether you haven't picked up a pencil since grade school or have always believed you "can't draw," you'll leave with new skills, renewed confidence, and artwork that may surprise you with what you're capable of creating. | $300<br>for up to 20 registrants |
| **Embroidery 101**<br><br>Embroidery is a timeless folk tradition, and this beginner-friendly workshop is designed to make it feel approachable, satisfying, and fun from the very first stitch. We'll begin by reviewing the basics and sharing simple, professional tips—like how to thread a needle with ease—so you feel confident and set up for success. From there, you'll build skills step by step as you learn foundational embroidery stitches, including the split stitch, satin stitch, and the ever-charming French knot. Led by Teaching Artist Jenny Santa Maria, this workshop goes beyond learning stitches, encouraging participants to discover embroidery as a meaningful and enjoyable form of creative expression. | $350<br>for up to 16 registrants |

# *More Creative Programs*
## for Adults and Mature Adults

| PROGRAM | FEE (all materials included) |
|---|---|
| **Needlefelting 101**<br><br>With a rainbow of wool fibers and a variety of cookie-cutter forms to inspire your designs, participants will be introduced to the art of needle felting while exploring how we cultivate joy and use our creativity in service of the needs within our community. In partnership with the Monmouth SPCA, participants will create a felted project to keep and a catnip-filled toy to donate to a shelter cat. Led by Teaching Artist Jenny Santa Maria, this workshop is sure to be heart-felt experience. | $400<br>for up to 14 registrants |
| **Paint like the Impressionists: Watercolor Pencils 101**<br><br>Discover the magic of watercolor pencils, where the precision of drawing meets the fluid beauty of watercolor painting! With fewer rules and more control than traditional watercolor, this versatile medium offers an approachable and exciting introduction to painting for artists of all experience levels. Learn to blend colors, create beautiful gradients, and experience the transformation as a simple pencil drawing comes to life with the addition of water, becoming a vibrant watercolor painting before your eyes! Inspired by the Impressionist masters, you'll recreate a favorite masterpiece while developing observational drawing skills and confidence with a brush. Join Teaching Artist Jenny Santa Maria for this hands-on workshop using artist-quality Derwent and Castle Arts watercolor pencils. All supplies are included, and no experience is necessary. | $400<br>for up to 16 registrants |
| **Stamping 101**<br><br>Unleash your creativity in this beginner-friendly workshop designed to inspire! Participants will create their own works of art while learning how to design and use rubber stamps to build repeated patterns, layered compositions, and expressive surfaces. You'll have access to a treasure trove of stamps to choose from, sparking endless possibilities and playful experimentation. We'll explore how other media, like colored pencil, can elevate and enrich your designs. Step-by-step guidance will show you how to pair, overlap, and layer images to create dynamic artwork with depth and personality. Along the way, you'll experiment with a variety of inks, tools, and techniques, gaining confidence in both the materials and the creative process. | $400<br>for up to 16 registrants |

# ***Creative Programs***
## for Children and Teens

| Activity | Fee<br>(all materials included) |
|---|---|
| **Look Closer! The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe (ages 5-8)**<br><br>What extraordinary discoveries are hiding in the ordinary objects around us? Inspired by the art of Georgia O'Keeffe, young artists will become creative investigators, using magnifying glasses to explore the fascinating textures, patterns, and shapes found in nature. From seashells and feathers to seeds and other natural treasures, we'll examine objects up close and use descriptive words to capture what we discover. We'll also look at reproductions of O'Keeffe's famous paintings to explore how she used close-up views, bold shapes, and color to transform familiar subjects into extraordinary works of art. For our own art project, we'll use soft pastels to blend beautiful color gradients on black paper, creating larger-than-life flower drawings inspired by her work!<br>Please note: Pastels can be dusty, so a smock or old T-shirt is recommended.<br>(Compliments the 2027 Library Summer Reading Theme: Mysteries Await) | $400<br>up to 12 children<br>*must be accompanied by an adult |
| **Embroidery 101 (Perfect for Young Adults and Adult Learners)**<br><br>In this beginner-friendly embroidery workshop, we'll cover the split stitch, French knot, easy needle-threading techniques, and more. A variety of templates and visual references will be available for inspiration, so participants can follow a pattern or design their own. You'll leave with the skills to make embroidery a joyful, portable part of your creative life.<br><br>(Upgrade this program with 100% cotton totes for all participants<br>-an additional $50) | $350<br>up to 18 registrants |



# Virtual PROGRAMS

Over the years, I've offered a variety of virtual programs through libraries and senior communities, consistently drawing strong attendance. These sessions remain among my most accessible and far-reaching offerings.

Each one combines a dynamic slideshow with a live, step-by-step draw-along using an overhead camera. These sessions highlight the strength and perseverance of artists, and inspire personal expression. I love being able to share the arts in a way that meets people where they are—right at home.

**FEE FOR 1.5 HOUR PROGRAM: VIRTUAL LECTURE WITH "DRAW ALONG": $200**

## ART MOVEMENTS:

- **Ancient Greece and Rome** – Participants draw Greek pottery in the three styles discussed.
- **Ancient Egyptian Art** – Concludes with drawing a scarab.
- **The Renaissance** – Focuses on cross-hatching techniques, drawing like Michelangelo.
- **Impressionism** – A favorite among mature adults, featuring a draw-along to reimagine Monet's bridge.
- **New York's Finest: Warhol, Haring & Basquiat in the 1980s** – Design a pop art-inspired shoe.

## ARTISTS:

- **The Life and Legacy of Alma Thomas** – *Reimagining one of her vibrant works.*
  *(It's always a joy to share the work of Alma Thomas—both during Black History Month and throughout the year—while also acknowledging the challenges she faced as a Black woman artist in the segregated American South.)*
- **Salvador Dalí** – *concluding with a whimsical clock drawing inspired by "The Persistence of Memory"*
- **The Life and Legacy of Michelangelo** – *concluding with cross-hatched bird drawing*
- **Keith Haring** – *concluding with a reimagining of "Two Figures with Red Heart"*
- **Pablo Picasso** – *A survey of his many artistic periods, ending with a recreation of "Girl Before a Mirror"*
- **Frida Kahlo** – *concluding with a step-by-step draw along of a sugar skull*

I believe art has the power to build a healthier and more compassionate society, and it would be an privilege to help fulfill that vision at your branch. I work with libraries across the region to offer adaptable, thoughtfully designed creative programming that align with grant goals and community needs. Each program can be tailored to support creative aging, youth engagement, or inclusive programming, and is easily adapted for individuals with special needs. I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss possibilities for collaboration.



Art for the "non-artist", Princeton Public Library


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