

Get artsy

Visual arts classes tap children's creativity

By Lockie Hunter
WNC Parent contributor

We are fortunate to live in an area flush with artists. Many artists offer lessons to children at art centers or private lessons at their studios or homes. Looking for a class? Here is a sampling of various classes:

Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts

Odyssey offers a variety of classes for children at all skill levels and ages year round. Winter kids classes provide exciting activities for kids (ages 6-12) or teens (ages 13-17) to make giant sculptures, spend time on the potter's wheel, and learn about North Carolina folk art traditions by making face jugs. All supplies are included, and students get to take their finished projects home. Cara Gilpin



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Jeffrey Short enjoys a class at Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts in the River Arts District.

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at Odyssey suggests trying the center's Martin Luther King Clay day on Jan. 18.

"It is a great way for them to shake off boredom, learn some history, and make new friends before signing up for a winter class session," she said.

Children's Art School

At the Children's Art School, each child has the opportunity to be self-directed and is given the supplies and resources to explore any aspect of creativity they choose.

"We use nature as our primary influence," said Clarie Sordoni Smith, the school's founder and a teacher. "Through art, children can contemplate their relationships with each other, nature, and themselves, and use art as the means by which they give visual expression to those relationships."

Roots + Wings

Roots+Wings School of Art director Ginger Huebner said she believes in the power of art to speak to and through everyone. Classes are structured to accommodate various age groups and



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Katie Land shows off a piece she created as part of a Joyful Noise Summer Camp.

learning levels.

In addition to the Visual Arts Pre-school, the school offers monthly art sessions for ages 3-6 and 7-10, summer art camps, and private studio time for children, adults and families.

"Our monthly art sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds will help your child enter his or her school days with confidence in the visual arts while developing emotional and social skills," Huebner said. "Our sessions for 7- to 10-year-olds provide the opportunity for in-depth artistic engagement."

The school has a variety of teaching artists providing a diverse range of art mediums with a maximum class size of seven.

Joyful Noise

The Visual Arts Program at Joyful Noise Community Music and Arts Center offers students of all ages the opportunity to explore and express their creativity in a variety of media. Joyful Noise offers beginning drawing using pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, and pastels. It also offers fiber arts, where students can learn traditional hand quilting methods or take a 10-week intensive fiber arts/surface design workshop. One family class is Art Quilts 102-Take It With You, where participants design and complete a small art quilt in one day.

"In all the visual arts classes, students learn about design principles, color and composition, and above all, to let their creative juices flow," said Lynda Sondles, visual arts teacher.

Continues on Page 26

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Continued from Page 25

Richmond's Studio

At Richmond's Studio, the teachers want to show students that art is something that can make them happy for a lifetime.

"Not only can they experience this happiness through the process of creating new artwork, but each student will come away from a class by looking at the world from a different perspective," said artist/teacher Richmond Smith.

Richmond's Studio offers both home-school and after-school art classes for kindergarten to 12th grade, covering a wide range of media including drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Super Saturday program

Super Saturday is UNC Asheville's six-week academic enrichment program for third-eighth graders. The Spring 2010



SPECIAL TO WNC PARENT

BMCA Clay Studio teacher Geoff Bird gives a young potter a few tips.

session features arts classes in cartooning; handbuilt pottery; photography;

improv theater and expressive arts; knots, braids and weaves; soft sculptures, multimedia, knitting, quilting and more. Students may take one or two classes during each Saturday morning session.

"Super Saturday is geared to students who are academically gifted, creative or highly motivated and ready to learn," said Holly Beveridge, director of the program.

Odyssey Community School

Odyssey Community School's offerings include a clay class that teaches the entire process of ceramics, from the ball of clay to the glazing and firing. Participants will play with the wide range of colors and glazes that are available with low-fire pottery. The Beads from Around the World course examines cultural and social traditions of beads throughout the history of the world. This is a multiage class teaching professional jewelry-making skills through the creation of single- and multi-strand jewelry. Programs are open to elementary and middle school students.

Black Mountain Center for the Arts

Black Mountain Center for the Arts' mission is "to bring arts to the people and people to the arts," said program coordinator Rita Vermillion.

Ongoing visual arts classes are offered in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional arts. Drawing and painting classes are taught by Bob Travers, and each class is appropriate for beginner through advanced. Students work at their own pace, with their choice of medium and subject. Travers is an award-winning wildlife artist who teaches in oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor and more. Pottery classes are taught at the center's clay studio. Other classes, by appointment, include Family Clay Time, two-day and one-week Clay Samplers and Paint Your Own Pottery.

Molly Angel

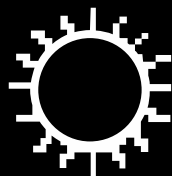
Molly Angel, an artist with bachelor's in art education and studio art, has been teaching art for six years. She offers classes for kindergarten to sixth grade in a variety of media including collage, clay, painting, drawing, sculpture. Private lessons offered as well.

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AREA ART CLASSES

◆ Black Mountain Center for the Arts, 225 W. State St., Black Mountain, 669-0930, BlackMountainArts.org

◆ Children's Art School, 40 Forest Road, Asheville, 337-5843, clairesordoni.com/artschool.html

◆ Joyful Noise, First Presbyterian Church, 30 Alabama Ave., Weaverville, 775-2499, joyfulnoisecenter.org/classes.html

◆ Molly Angel, 24 Pinehurst Circle, Arden, and 70 S. Main St., Weaverville, 681-0106

◆ Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts, 236 Clingman Ave., Asheville, 285-0210, highwaterclays.com

◆ Odyssey Community School, 90 Zillicoa St., Asheville, 259-2653, odysseycommunity.org

◆ Richmond's Studio, Phil Mechanic Studios, 109 Roberts St., Asheville, 777-3345, richmonds-studio.com/after-school_classes.html

◆ Roots +Wings School of Art, Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville's Biltmore Village, 3 Angle St., Asheville, 545-4827, rootsandwingsarts.com

◆ Super Saturday at UNC Asheville, various campus sites, One University Heights, Asheville, 251-6558, un-ca.edu/oaci/supersaturday

◆ Asheville Art Museum, 2 S. Pack Square, Asheville, 253-3227

◆ Jewish Community Center, 236 Charlotte St., Asheville, 253-0701

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