

# Meet our Instructors!

**Justin Young** earned a Bachelors Degree from Iowa State University and is a Signature Member of the Iowa Watercolor Society (IWS). He also enjoys painting and drawing using pastels, watercolors, acrylics, charcoal since he was a youngster. His art creations include cityscape, pets, human and architectural portraits for which he has won numerous awards.

He has taught private and public art lessons for children and conducted student art workshops for K-12 and Universities.

**Steve O'Brien** brings 50 years of photographic experience in numerous facets of the art form.



He recently retired as the 25 year head of forensic photography for the Iowa Department of Public Safety. O'Brien has received numerous state and international awards for his photographic work, including photographs displayed at the Des Moines Art Center, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Iowa State Fair and Iowa State University. O'Brien has also been a two time judge for the Iowa State Fair Photography Competition.

**Marcia Leeper** has a background in nursing, professional Girl Scouting, and horticulture. But art and creativity have always been a huge part of her life.



Marcia loves sharing her art and encourages others to see hidden patterns and design everywhere in our world.

## **Tanya Lichinsky**

Tanya was born in Ukraine. She studied art and learned skills at the State Art Academy named after Ilya Repin. She moved to US with her family about 30 years ago. Tanya has developed unprecedented taste and vision for art through years of industry and freelance experience.



Tanya has been drawing and painting since the early childhood. Creation has become a necessity, in any medium, be it watercolors, acrylic, oil or pencil, is utilized. Her muse may be exotic; but it can also be anything from everyday life, or even something out of a negative space that looks interesting. Tanya has done work in illustrations, murals, faux finishing and in portraiture. As an artist, Tanya feels a strong need for sharing her views and passions with an audience and has grown her audience through connecting online. [website https://www.instagram.com/tplstudio](https://www.instagram.com/tplstudio)

**Betty Walker** is an internationally recognized artist who uses a variety of mediums such as watercolor, coffee paint, ink, and graphite. She is also a muralist (window



and wall) and her work can be found in local businesses and schools.

Originally from the Pacific

Northwest, Betty came to Iowa 4 years ago and has invested herself in the community as an artist, educator, and resident.

**Laura Todd** has lived in Des Moines for the last six years, and in the last few has built her career as an artist after having taught Spanish. She now teaches



art for non-profit, The After School Arts Program (ASAP) serving the DMPS elementary schools. Laura is currently working on expanding her mural portfolio and has her own studio in Sherman Hill, right across the street from Hoyt Sherman. Laura is looking forward to teaching artists of all ages who have a desire to build their art skills and most importantly, express, connect, and heal through creation.



**Janet Mootz** is the Director of Education and Community Engagement at Hoyt Sherman Place. She has an

extensive background in photography including operating her own photography business for 15 years and working as an adjunct photography instructor at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Janet studied Art Education at the University of Iowa.

**Candace Camling** is the illustrator and author/illustrator of over a dozen books. She lives in Des Moines where she works in her attic studio. She holds a BFA in illustration from Kendall College of Art & Design.

Candace enjoys solving visual problems, learning about new topics and creating joy in her work.

