

## RiverArtsFest, Inc.

### Art Education Conversations: Maysey Craddock, Carrol McTyre and Leanne Wilson

#### Artist Maysey Craddock

Best known for her visceral gouache paintings of ephemeral landscapes, Maysey Craddock examines the dualities and mysteries of nature. She paints from her own photographs of wetlands and other fragile natural habitats, developing line drawings that are then transposed onto paper bags that she sews together to make large canvases. Her saturated earth tones and translucent elemental layers depict wild spaces and what happens beyond the grasp of human control. Maysey Craddock was born in 1971 in Memphis, TN and currently lives and works in Memphis. She received an MFA from Maine College of Art, Portland, ME and a BA in Sculpture and Anthropology from Tulane University in New Orleans. Throughout her career spanning over 25 years, she has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the United States and Germany. She has received numerous awards, grants and residencies, including the Tennessee Artist Fellowship from Austin Peay State University; an Individual Artist Fellowship Award from the Tennessee Arts Commission; and visual artist residencies throughout the United States and in Germany.

- Check out the artist's website: <https://www.mayseycraddock.com>
- Instagram: @mayseycraddock
- Galleries:
- <https://www.crisworley.com/artists/maysey-craddock>
- [https://searspeyton.com/artist/Maysey\\_Craddock/works/10101](https://searspeyton.com/artist/Maysey_Craddock/works/10101)
- <https://www.davidluskgallery.com/artists/maysey.craddock>

#### Art Educators Carrol McTyre and Leanne Wilson

Carrol McTyre is a teaching artist. She has taught at the secondary level for over 20 years. She holds a BFA from The University of Memphis. She has presented at the Tennessee Art Education Association state conference, was selected to present at National Art Education Association in 2020 and named the TAEA Secondary Art Educator of the year in 2022. McTyre has maintained an artistic practice as well. Some of the highlights include an artist residency at Crosstown Arts, included in the *Memphis 2021* Exhibit at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, and has work in LeBonheur Children's Medical Center's permanent collection. FOR MORE INFORMATION: you can see more of McTyre's work at <https://www.carrollhardingmctyre.com> OR @chmctyre on Instagram.

Leanne Wilson received a BFA and a MAT from The University of Memphis. Wilson began her career at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in the graphic arts. She continued to work at various agencies in the graphic and print media field for a decade. Wilson made the decision to become a teaching artist nearly 30 years ago. In addition to creating art for personal enjoyment, Wilson works with various community art groups. As a teacher she sponsors the Graphic Media Club, The Skate Club and the Art Club. Riding her horse, Obie, is the icing on the cake of a most happy life.

#### CENTRAL THEMES OF CONVERSATION

The conversation between Craddock, Wilson and McTyre explores conceptual and technical considerations, as well as the artist's process, including materiality and repurposing. The artist discusses a lifelong interest in drawing and anthropology and how that led her to New Orleans. Her connection to the diverse cultures and topography of that region sparked work that has consumed her 25 plus years as a professional artist. The conversation delves into Craddock's interest in the wetlands along the Gulf Coast and the stories that are buried in those wild spaces.

## KEY UNDERSTANDINGS

- We want young artists and the public to see the daily life of an artist: routines, habits, space, schedules as well as intent and considerations.
- We want participants to demonstrate an understanding of how to use positive and negative space in a work of art.
- We want participants to demonstrate an understanding of composition and how to create artwork that engages the picture plane.
- We want participants to demonstrate an understanding of basic color theory, specifically color harmonies and how specific color combinations can impact the final work.
- We want participants to demonstrate an understanding of basic gouache painting techniques.

## VOCABULARY

- Gouache: a technique of painting with opaque watercolors prepared with gum.
- Positive and negative space: Positive space refers to the subject or areas of interest in an artwork, such as a person's face or figure in a portrait, the objects in a still life painting, or the trees in a landscape painting. Negative space is the background or the area that surrounds the subject of the work.
- Color harmonies: A color scheme is a selection of colors that work well together for artistic and design needs.
- Carbon paper: thin paper coated with carbon or another pigmented substance, used for making copies of written or typed documents.
- Substrate: the underlying substance or layer

## QUESTIONING

- Have the participants define their own geography. What is unique to their region? How might they depict that in a work of art?
- If the participants could transport to any region/landscape, where would they go, how would they use that landscape to inform their artwork?
- Part of Craddock's process is working on brown paper bags. What did the participants think of this substrate as a painting material? Have the participants name three other nontraditional materials they could use as a canvas.
- Craddock uses her own photos. Have the participants explore that process for themselves.
- Have participants look at artwork that utilizes color harmonies to create a mood. Have a group discussion about how selecting colors based on where they are on the color wheel can impact how the audience interprets the work. Here is a list of artists you might consider introducing to the group: Gauguin or any Fauvists, Milton Avery, Wolf Kahn, Kehinde Wiley, Frida Kahlo, Hokusai or other Japanese printmakers.

## ADDITIONAL LINKS AND RESOURCES

Drawing the space in between – positive and negative

<http://artinspired.pbworks.com/w/page/13819678/Positive%20and%20Negative%20Space>

Color theory – lots of additional links at the end

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/introduction-to-color/>

Gouache tutorials

<https://myreeves.com/en/tips-tricks/gouache/>

Finding your sense of place

<https://new.artsmia.org/programs/teachers-and-students/teaching-the-arts/artwork-in-focus/pedernal-from-the-ranch/>

Encouraging dialogue and observation

<https://collections.dma.org/essay/QvGyK5Vm>

Using nature as your inspiration – scroll to Beatriz Milhazes

<http://widerainbow.org/lessons>

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