



Norma Hendrix

Norma Hendrix lives and works in her studio in Franklin, North Carolina, where she loves to hike the many trails in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Her deep respect and awe of nature infuse the many aspects of her artmaking.

Hendrix has been an exhibiting artist for over 40 years. She holds a BFA from Ohio University, an MA from Western Carolina University and an MFA from Northern Vermont University.

Hendrix has been an artist in residence and presenter at Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA, The Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, and Atelier Four Winds, Aureille, France.

She has taught art professionally since she first apprenticed in high school at the “Art Workshop,” in

Winter Park, FL. Later founding several teaching studios for children and adults. She was professor of Drawing, Life Drawing, 2-D Design, Painting and Art History for ten years at Western Carolina University, 1999 – 2009.

She served as Education Director at the Bascom Art Center, Highlands, NC from 2009 – 20011, where she created artist workshops, taught by artists of national recognition.

In 2011 Hendrix founded Cullowhee Arts, which became an internationally recognized non-profit organization hosting artist workshops and artist retreats during summers at Western Carolina University, at Lake Logan Retreat Center, Spring and Fall, Taos, New Mexico, and other inspiring international locations. Cullowhee Arts closed its doors due to the impacts of COVID-19, in March, 2020.

Norma has curated and co-curated many exhibits - at Western Carolina University’s Fine Art Museum, Cullowhee, North Carolina, Carolina Gallery, Highlands, North Carolina and the Cullowhee Arts’ ArtSpace gallery, Sylva, North Carolina to mention a few.

Hendrix has exhibited in numerous group and solo exhibits throughout her career. She has twice been the recipient of a North Carolina Arts Council’s “Regional Arts Project Grant.” The most recent award funded a mono-print project at Jeff Hirst Studio in Chicago, Illinois, culminating in the suite of work: “Land, Water, Air,” exhibited at the Cullowhee Arts’ ArtSpace.

Hendrix’s artwork is held in private and public collections in the US, France and England.

Drawing: presence, perception, experimentation

Drawing on location, or *en plein air*, is a sensory experience that allows us to absorb the multi-layered aspects of a site: the mood, the sounds, the warmth of the sun or cool of the shadows. These sensations all play a part in how we perceive visual information. Learning to create simple, direct compositions while absorbing what our chosen location presents can bring us tremendously satisfying results.

Successful drawing is always a distillation of the complex visual data offered at any location. We will approach this by first pausing to be “present” to the visual moment and allow ourselves to find the main event - what is personally compelling (this is often not the immediate obvious). From this grounded position we can move quickly to make direct drawings with just enough information to compose powerful, cohesive compositions.

Our drawing tools will be permanent pigment drawing pens, graphite pencils and water-soluble graphite chunk. In the studio, our morning drawings become maps that will guide us to make larger drawings where we can experiment with incorporating other dry media in exciting combinations. Here we will experiment with pastel, oil pastel, artgraf squares, pan pastels and thin films of cold wax medium.

