

COUNTRY DAY CREATIVE ARTS

THE 2024 ARTIST TEACHERS



We wholeheartedly
THANK
our CDCA 2024 Interns
for all their help & support!



Byron Asher

New Orleans, LA

Music

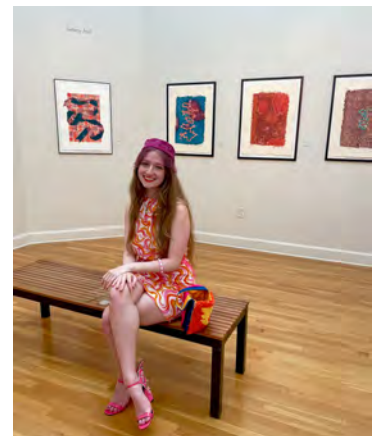
Byron Asher is a saxophonist and clarinetist AND amateur pizzolo (pizza chef) based in New Orleans, originally from rural Maryland. His favorite pizza topping combination is Italian sausage, peppers and caramelized onions, but if we're being real, PLAIN CHEESE PIZZA is the truest form of the pie, and he will argue this until you're so hungry that you have to go and eat pizza. When he's not perfecting his dough recipe, he can be found performing with one of his many bands, including the "free jazz party band" Basher and his little big band Skrontch Music. Byron also teaches all aspects of music making at the University of New Orleans, and above all, he invites his students to be unapologetically themselves and GET WEIRD. He also has a really cute dog named Ida, pics available upon request.

Sidney Astl

New Orleans, LA

Digital Photography/ Visual Arts

Sidney Astl is a New Orleans based artist focusing in printmaking and filmmaking. She is a kindergarten teacher with a passion for fashion. Sidney loves to combine textile, printmaking, and photography to create visual stories. But mostly, Sidney loves to get her hands dirty and make something exciting and new! When she's not making art or teaching, you can find Sidney decked out in pink or roller skating with Big Easy Roller Derby. Sidney has hair as long as Rapunzel and is a steadfast believer in fairies.



Leyla Beyduon

New York, NY

Stage Combat/ Performing Arts

Leyla is joining us from New York! She is a Middle Eastern-American actress, dancer, and performer. Leyla received her BFA in acting from the University of Michigan. Some fun facts about her: She has been dancing since she was five, she is trained in flying trapeze, and traveling is her all-time favorite hobby. When she is not teaching, she can be found eating bagels, listening to her favorite playlists, or reading. Leyla is thrilled to be joining CDCA Staff for the summer of 2024!

Emily Brink

New Orleans, LA

Stop Motion Animation



Moving to New Orleans from Brooklyn 7 years ago, Emily and her family have found their home! Although she might be new-ish to the Big Easy, she is not new to stop motion animation or to teaching art. After finishing her graduate work at the Pratt Institute in New York City, Emily created and ran a small art school that used the vehicle of stop motion animation to teach different art making mediums to children and adults alike. She taught her students to make art move all over New York City, from prestigious institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art to small public schools in Queens, loving every minute of it. Oh! During this time she also wrote a how-to book about creating stop motion animation at home and had twins! Two spirited girls who keep her on her toes and bring joy and the right amount of craziness to her life everyday. Good thing she is a runner too! When she is not running, gardening, teaching or writing, you can find Emily petting her garden kitty, Apollo or hanging with her three favorite people at home.

Joe Cantu

New Orleans, LA

Robotics

Joe C Cantu II is an American carpenter, designer, and musician. A graduate of the Ball State University, He has traveled makerspaces as far away as Egypt, and made a career of aiding those who crave to craft for themselves. His collaboration with director Susan Gisleson led to the creation of the "Voyages Extraordinaires des Arts Creatif" – An series of expeditions through wonder, beauty, and empowerment of young artists engaging in minor engineering pursuits. These adventures, ambitiously dreamt, are narratively set in the second half of the 19th century, taking into account certain technological advances, and paving forward some futuristic ideas, encouraging robotic discovery from a point of view that predates even the computer. Thus, he has earned a reputation of certain avant-garde and surrealism, with notable hints of STEAM.



David Chervony
Chicago, IL

Circus Arts

David Chervony is a circus creator and performer based in Chicago, who uses juggling and movement to express both the inane and intimate. David has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe, Steppenwolf, the International Physical Festival, the Hupstate Circus Fest, and perhaps most importantly, the noontime programs at CDCA. Let's have another incredible summer!



Jade Coates-Ranck

New Orleans, LA

Musical Theater

Jade is excited to be back at CDCA as a lead teaching artist. Jade has been participating in musicals her entire life, frequently with JPAS and Tulane Summer Lyric. She holds a bachelor of music degree from Loyola University, where she studied vocal music and theater arts. She then traveled around the US with Missoula Children's Theatre, directing weekly shows with children around the country. She settled back in the New Orleans area, and began teaching music, acting, and theatre arts to children in the area. Jade is recently married and teaches in the Early Childhood Center of Country Day during the school year.

Marti Dumas

New Orleans, LA

Creative Writing

Marti Dumas is a native New Orleanian with a passion for storytelling. When she is not teaching or parenting, she is reading or writing. She prefers to do some combination of the above within view of ancient oak trees or the banks of the river. To date, she has published twelve books for children, including the best-selling Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest chapter book series, and the Wildseed Witch books, tales of social media and magic.



Frenchie Faith

New Orleans, LA

Performing Arts

Frenchie's first love is flying, but puppies, babies, and creepy things that go bump in the night run a close second. Having been a librarian for ten years and a professional acrobat for thirty, it's amazing that she is only 26 years old! Frenchie has performed with (or for) many of your favorite New Orleans artists and she once sang for Bill Clinton, at his inauguration. Twelve years ago, one CDCA young artist said, "She kinda looks like Ke\$ha." Some of her proudest accomplishments are her two magical children, her silver metal in Sports Acrobatics at the National Elite Level, and her role as a founding member of The Flying Buttresses, the greatest aerial troupe in the world. She is honored and thrilled to join you again at CDCA this summer!



Steve Gilliland

New Orleans, LA

Sound FX

Steve Gilliland is a musician, producer, audio engineer, and sound designer currently living in New Orleans. As a performer and multi-instrumentalist, he has played a wide variety of various genres throughout his career, including classical, jazz, hip-hop and bluegrass. As a producer and sound designer, he is constantly expanding his sonic style, searching for new ways to create and manipulate sounds to immerse the audience in a truly unique world of sound and music. Steve is excited to share his passion for the universal language (music!) with the CDCA young artists again this year!

Susan Gisleson

New Orleans, LA

Director of CDCA

Susan Gisleson taught art for eighteen years before becoming the director of Country Day Creative Arts. She is a New Orleans based artist and educator and a founding member of the literary and visual arts non-profit Press Street, Antenna Gallery, and the 24 Hour Draw-a-thon. Susan has also designed signature floats for the Krewe of Muses as well as some of their throws. She believes that CDCA is a place where dreams become realities and realities become dreams.



Jason Goodenough

New Orleans, LA

Culinary Arts

Chef Jason Goodenough grew up in New York City but moved to New Orleans 13 years ago. For as long as he can remember, he wanted to be a great chef, and there is no better place to do that than New Orleans. Ten years ago, he opened his restaurant, which was called Carrollton Market. Three years after it opened, the Times-Picayune named Carrollton Market one of the New Orleans' 10-best restaurants, and Chef Jason was the New Orleans Magazine Chef of the Year. In 2020, he closed the restaurant to spend more time with his wife, Amelia, and his two daughters, Eloise (now 13) and Penelope (now 9). These days, Chef spends his time working on Goodenough Supper Club, an underground dining experience, and Goodenough Private Events. He is very excited to teach at CDCA this summer!





Jon Greene

New Orleans, LA

Theater

Jon Greene is a director, producer, and theater-maker based out of New Orleans. He holds a BFA from Boston University, trained with Italian Maestro Antonio Fava and is a Kennedy Center Directing Fellow. With 2 Big Easy Award wins and 12 Nominations his oversized, and imaginative work has been seen at The Shadowbox, The Besthoff Sculpture Garden, Le Petite Theater, and most recently with The Radical Buffoons, of which he is Artistic Director. Prior to living in New Orleans he traveled the world as a working theater maker and found homes (and gigs) in such far away places as Buenos Aires, Reggio Emilia IT, Singapore, Deadwood South Dakota, as well as in New York, Boston, Washington DC, and elsewhere. As an educator he runs the talented theater program at Hynes Lakeview and is a professor of Theater at The University of New Orleans. When he's not in the theater working he's in the theater playing - as in the world around him. He's a firm believer that everything is fodder for our art, but more so -as a true clown - that everything around us is an opportunity for play!

Heather Hasselle

New Orleans, LA

Film

Heather Hasselle is a lover of goofiness, books, movies, art, silliness, glittery nail polish, and her chihuahua named Lil Bro. She has taught art and creative writing to kids, teens, and adults for over a decade—in Austin, and in New Orleans. She is a teaching artist for Community Works, Young Audiences, and for her dog who she is trying to get into theater. "Sit!" she tells him, and he sits! She thinks that's enough for him to be a star in show-biz. Once, Heather wrote, directed, and starred in a short film that got placed in a Summer Series for the Hyperreal Film Club in Austin. Another time, she wrote some short stories and they got published in Joyland Magazine and The Harvard Advocate. She is in the final stages (how many are there??) of finishing a novel, and will be attending the Bennington Writing Seminars this winter where she'll at last obtain her Master's of Fine Arts!



Josh Jackson

New Orleans, LA

Visual Arts/ Graphic Design

A product of NC barbecue, his Granny's chocolate cake, and watching too much Nickelodeon, Josh Jackson is a multi-disciplinary artist and co-founder of local art studio, Daggum Creative. Whether it's creating wacky sculptures, wiring chandeliers, or practicing traditional crafts, Josh's work invites everyone to embark on a creative adventure, unearthing humor and fun along the way.



Emily Laychak
Savannah, GA

Puppetry

Emily Laychak is a multimedia artist, especially in love with stage design and puppetry. She believes the limits of puppetry are impossible to reach! And that creating art is just like eating food - absolutely necessary. Emily is the founder of a community theater in Savannah GA called Saw the Wheel Theater, but loves to travel back to New Orleans as often as she can for Mardi Gras and CDCA, both of which have majorly influenced her ideas about art and community, her 2 favorite things! She is also the mother and collaborator of a young artist named Suzette.

Jenny LeBlanc
New Orleans, LA

Sculpture/ Painting

New Orleans artist Jenny LeBlanc makes work where performance, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture converge. She has exhibited throughout the US and also in Canada, Italy, and Japan. LeBlanc cofounded and directed Hot Iron Press for 18 years, was a founding member of the art collective and gallery The Front, and taught sculpture at NOCCA for most of the last decade. She holds degrees from the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Louisiana State University (BFA in Sculpture), and Virginia Commonwealth University (MFA in Sculpture). Jenny enjoys daily growing alongside her two whoopsy- splunking childers and a happy and productive garden. Her favorite color used to be aqua but she thinks she likes orange and yellow more these days.



Julia Lemann
New Orleans, LA

Dance

Julia Lemann, better known around CDCA as "Lemon", is a New Orleans native with a passion for both performance and visual art. She has taught youth dance and circus arts locally at Artivism Dance Theatre, Dancing Grounds, Newman School, and the International School of Louisiana. Nowadays she makes jewelry and performs around town, but you might have to look up to catch her...she's 8 feet tall on aluminum stilts. This summer, she will be offering four different movement-related classes that take dance out of the studio and into the world.



Sasha Martin
New Orleans, LA

Yoga

Sasha Martin has spent seventeen years developing a passion for yoga, supported by the community of Magnolia Yoga Studio for the past five years. She finds inspiration in storytelling, nature, and asking big questions while paying attention to the small details that make life beautiful. You will often find Sasha enjoying bike rides through the city and being a local tourist in her hometown of New Orleans and its surrounding areas. Sasha brings a wealth of skills cultivated through years of teaching and learning. Her engagement extends to working with non-native English speaking students in New Orleans schools and deepening her expertise in trauma-informed and social-emotional learning practices as a lifelong student. Her creative practice revolves around self-examination and breathwork incorporating elements of psychology, spirituality and mindfulness.

Misha Mayeur

New Orleans, LA

Visual Arts

A New Orleans Native, Misha grew up going to art camps and after school programs, graduating Mount Carmel Academy as the Student Council Executive Artist. She went on to earn her Bachelors of Science in Studio Art with a Graphic Design concentration, and her Bachelors of Art in Creative Advertising from the University of Miami. From there Misha moved to New York, spending years producing fashion photo shoots, music videos, websites and branding. In 2015 she transitioned into the exciting world of event production. Growing up with a deep love of storytelling, painting, and arts and crafts, Misha is excited to explore these themes with the young artists at CDCA this year.



Rose McBurney

New Orleans, LA

Sink Manager



Rose McBurney is a figurative painter living and working in New Orleans, La. She takes inspiration from film, video, the collective unconscious, friends, family, strangers, and her inner eye. Her current work seeks to understand man's will to exist in the face of mediocrity by pausing in the weird moments of everyday life. She is currently attending Yale University pursuing a Masters in Fine Arts with an emphasis in painting. Rose has shown in galleries locally and nationally, including The Front Gallery, New Orleans, Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, New Orleans, Hall-Barnett Gallery, New Orleans, Superfine Art Fair, Miami, Hair and Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, and The Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans as part of the annual juried exhibition Louisiana Contemporary www.rosemcburney.com

Ashley Mixon
New Orleans, LA

Culinary Arts



As a skilled chef with a deep-rooted passion for culinary arts, Ashley Mixon brings a unique blend of traditional recipes passed down through generations of sturdy grandmothers and mothers. Her culinary journey has been enriched by hands-on experience and a commitment to excellence in the kitchen. She holds coveted certifications in both culinary arts and hospitality, showcasing her dedication to honing her craft and providing exceptional service to guests. Ashley finds joy in a variety of activities that feed her creative spirit and thirst for new experiences. When she is not busy crafting culinary delights, you can often find me casting a line and catching fish, exploring new destinations through travel, and indulging in the thrill of competition culinary TV shows. Her passion for cooking extends beyond the confines of the kitchen, driving her to not only satisfy appetites but also to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Ashley is the proud owner and operator of a thriving catering business and am also deeply involved in running a non-profit organization, Mix Harvest Creations, dedicated to fighting food insecurity in her community.

Suzy Moorer
New Orleans, LA

Visual Arts

Originally from Alabama, Suzy earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking from the University of Alabama. Years later her Grandmother taught her how to make quilts. As an art educator Suzy draws upon Grandmother's values of diversity, kindness, patience, collaboration, history, and sustainability. You can see Suzy's quilts, paintings, and teaching portfolio at www.suzanahfurtick.com. Suzy's favorite things have stayed the same since she was 6- painting, sewing, going out into the sunshine, looking at moss and tiny plants, making people smile, and learning. She is looking forward to returning to CDCA to do all of that with kind, funny, and talented friends.



Alison Mott
New Orleans, LA

Visual Arts

Sauce Mott is a visual artist who was born and raised in New Orleans. She received her BFA from the University of Mississippi in 2008 and her MFA at Texas A&M - Corpus in 2017. Sauce loves junk, kitsch, plastic, tchotchkes, reflective surfaces and 1980's mecha anime. As a mother of two incredible little human children, Sauce gets very little sleep, but even while rocking babies and cutting grapes into fourths, her creative brain whirs with ideas to repurpose, reuse and rework old things into new, much cooler things. Sauce finds immeasurable joy in creative collaboration and leaving things better than she found them.



Jeanie Osborne

New Orleans, LA

Mosaics/ Mixed Media

Jeanie has been teaching Mosaics and Mixed Media at CDCA for over a decade now. She grew up in Upstate New York and attended Syracuse University for her BFA in Sculpture and later attended Newcomb College/ Tulane University for her MFA in Sculpture. She has been teaching art at Louise S. McGehee School for over 30 years. During the school year, she teaches with 3rd- 6th grade girls. She enjoys the opportunities at Country Day Creative Arts Program to work with young artists every day to nurture and develop art and ideas. She likes the atelier atmosphere, the community, and camaraderie that manifests each summer. She makes mosaic art throughout the year, likes to sew, bead, garden, and take photographic adventures.

Electra Pelias

New Orleans, LA

Ceramics

Art has always been omnipresent in Electra's life, with her creativity often pushing the bounds of acceptable behavior as a child. Once her mother, an antique collector, found Electra at 7 years old, attempting to "fix" the inlay of an 18th-century Boulle table with a mallet and craft glue. Although there was nothing quality about Elmer's on wood, her mother appreciated the sentiment of the gesture. Now as an adult, Pelias has channeled her "do it yourself" nature in mixed media, mainly concentrating on ceramics. This will be Electra's 16th consecutive year at CDCA (eight years as a camper, seven as an intern, and now her first as a senior staff!). This fall, Electra will be moving from New Orleans to DC to pursue a MFA in Studio Arts at George Washington University!



Hanna Pilch

New Orleans, LA

Horticulture/ Visual Arts

Hanna is an interdisciplinary artist and educator at a local nonprofit called T.R.E.E. T.R.E.E. is an organization which educates children and adults about the life science processes that govern our planet, and inspires them to appreciate and protect it. Hanna gained a love and appreciation for the natural world while growing up in Wyoming, and exploring its rural public lands. She continues to draw artistic inspiration from the planet that we call home, and the happenings of its members. Hanna works as a part-time illustrator and bookbinder at Laurel Street Press, a budding business which she co-founded. She is delighted to share her passion for art, education, and the environment at CDCA.



Jess Pinkham

New Orleans, LA

Film/ Journalism

Jess Pinkham grew up in New York but lives in New Orleans because she thinks it's the best place for a joy hound. She's worked on a variety of movies and TV shows, in a variety of positions, including stills photographer and field producer. She considers herself a scattered maximalist, but she is also enthusiastically ritualistic. Every morning, she reads a poem and sends a postcard, and never goes anywhere without at least one camera. If she ever figures out how to build an underwater darkroom, it will be her favorite place. She loves a lot of things, including flower walks, talking to animals, volunteering, and plotting pranks, but there's nothing she loves more than laughter.

Keri Pollock

New Orleans, LA

Business Manager

Keri is so happy to be a part of CDCA for another glorious year! She is the Business Manager and can be found working, but really having fun, in the office. Prior to working at CDCA, Keri lived in Atlanta and worked at Eileen Fisher for 7 years selling clothing to boutiques in the Southeast. She wears her Eileen Fisher samples that she was busy hoarding during her working hours whenever she can. Outside of CDCA, Keri is busy being a mom to Max and Sarah.



Matthew Raetz

New Orleans, LA

Circus Arts/ Acting

Matthew couldn't be more excited for what will be his 7th year teaching at Country Day Creative Arts. Actor and Co-Founder of New Orleans based YellowBoxCircus, his circus troupe performs over a dozen different circus skills across the country at private events, corporate events, birthdays, and weddings. Matthew is a movement/ Circus arts teacher at NOCCA and is represented by Hale Talent Agency. He is also a full-time cat dad to his two wonderful kitties.



Ella Roche

New Orleans, LA

Engineering/ Tech

Ella Roche is a New Orleans based artist and educator, she received her BFA focusing on art and technology from the Art Institute of Chicago and has a passion for creating interactive installation works that reflect and prospect on tech futures. She creates and develops creative STEM programs and workshops for local nonprofit Electric Girls. In her free time she enjoys taking vintage electronics apart and creating new inventions from the scraps and building interactive mini websites.

Mike Seely

New Orleans, LA

Team Games

Mike has been an educator and coach in the New Orleans area for the last 24 years. He spent 10 years in Jefferson Parish schools as a physical education teacher and head coach of both baseball and football before going on to Hahnville High school as a science teacher and coach of both baseball and football. Mike stepped away from the coaching side of education in 2018, but still has a love and passion for all sports. Mike currently teaches Physical Science and Engineering at Destrehan High School. He believes that team sports can bring out the best in people and show how creativethey can be to overcome the obstacles set out before them. Mike also enjoys the teamwork aspect of sports and helping people to learn to work together to overcome adversity. For Mike, "it's one of the greatest parts to being a coach and educator."



Ashley Sercovich

New Orleans, LA

Adornment



Ashley Sercovich is born & raised in New Orleans and has spent MANY summers at CDCA. Ashley is a mother to Drew and has studied Visual Arts & Theatre Design at Southeastern Louisiana University, with concentrations on gallery curating and costuming. Ashley had the honor of curating the first day of CDCA gallery exhibition for a few years, each year was a delight and a challenge which fulfilled its purpose of captivating the young artist community. Ashley had the immense pleasure of working for LadyParadiseStudios on seasonal costume builds and JamNOLA. Ashley is a wilderness admirer and enjoys kayak trips to the various local tributaries for Ornithology and fishing, her favorite creature from her adventures is the Great Blue Heron. Ashley continues to grow in her artistry by experiencing new mediums, most recently learning how to fish, embroidery & applique, and grow a vegetable garden, she also really enjoys watercolor painting.



Amelia Sherman

New Orleans, LA

Assistant Director of CDCA

Amelia is the head of the counseling department at Metairie Park Country Day, where she enjoys teaching psychology and guiding young minds through the maze of emotions and creativity. Amelia is thrilled to be a part of the CDCA community and looks forward to learning from many talented teachers and student artists. Amelia is committed to helping every young artist at CDCA discover their inner creativity, build confidence, and shine brightly in all of their classes. Amelia believes the most beautiful masterpiece is the one we create within ourselves.

Kyle Sirman

New Orleans, LA

Comics

Kyle Sirman is a cartoonist, printmaker, and long-time art educator. His cartoons have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Antigravity*, and more, and he has self-published numerous mini-comics while still finding time to play with his kids and take occasional naps. He co-founded the Bywater artist-run gallery, *The Front*, and the letterpress and screenprinting studio, *Hot Iron Press*, but recently retired from being a hipster to become just a regular old man. He loves pizza, matcha tea lattes, and everything that is funny.



Goldie Sylvan

New Orleans, LA

Sign Language/ Visual Arts

Goldie Sylvan has been serving the deaf community of the greater New Orleans area since graduating the American Sign Language interpreter training program at Delgado Community College in 2015. She also strives to live up to her creative gifts as a lifelong artist, having graduated with a BFA from her hometown University of Louisville in 2006. The twin centers of her life are her wife, Lynn and 3-year-old, Wally, the rest radiate out from there. She is passionate about imparting enthusiasm for ASL and handwork to the next generation.



Rahsaan Thomas

New Orleans, LA

Culinary Arts



Rahsaan Thomas, a cook at Metairie Park Country Day, developed his passion for cooking as a preteen while on summer vacation. Watching his grandmother command the kitchen was both awe inspiring and intriguing. He loves cooking New Orleans favorites and putting his own spin on traditional Creole and Cajun staples. Weekends you'll find Rahsaan sharpening his culinary skills in his kitchen at home, preparing fun favorites for his family. After graduating from O. Perry Walker Senior High School, Rahsaan earned diplomas from the New Orleans area Job Corps and The Culinary Institute of New Orleans. Throughout his twenty plus years in culinary arts he's worked at English Turn, The Creole Queen, and on offshore vessels.

Jeffrey Thurston

New Orleans, LA

Ceramics

Jeffrey Thurston is currently the ceramics professor at Nunez Community College and has taught art throughout the New Orleans area including Isidore Newman schools, and Tulane University. As a practicing Sculptural Ceramicist, Jeffrey Thurston is constantly amazed at how ceramic art helps shape and is shaped by the wider world.



Ross Turner

New Orleans, LA

Woodworking



Ross Turner's parents won him as the 2nd place prize in a watermelon-eating contest at the Yockanookany County Fair in 1986. He grew up in Chickenbone, Mississippi, subsisting on a heart-healthy diet of fried catfish, fried okra, and fried Dr Pepper. Ross spent his days chasing frogs in shallow creeks, wrestling with dogs, building forts, and drawing stuff; and his nights sleeping in the greatest tree house ever built. It's a crying shame he had to grow up.



Sarah Wardell

New Orleans, LA

Costumes/ Fabric Art

Sarah is an artist and design manager for projects big and small. She has worked with all kinds of mediums; among them, fabric, paper, and liquid color are her favorites. She likes getting messy, juggling many designs at once, asking questions, and making monsters. Storytelling is her favorite secret design weapon, and she uses it to bring memories, big feelings, and imagination to life in her projects. This is her 20th year as an independent artist, her first summer at CDCA, and her third year living in New Orleans.

