



Instructor Profile | Debra Snyder, December 2022

No matter where the road leads, Armory Art Center instructor Debra Snyder wants to share her love of art. Her travels have taken her to inspiring destinations. About two years ago, the painting instructor moved to Florida. She started teaching at the Armory in 2021.

Her earliest memory of creating art began as a young child. Influenced by her father, a creative sketch artist, she started with drawing. That knack for creativity grew, and in her twenties, Debra studied at Parsons School of Design in New York to study calligraphy, layout and design. Years later, she studied acrylic and watercolor with renowned artists at the Woodstock School of Art. She also continued refining her craft through workshops around the nation.

Debra began teaching in New Jersey about 10 years ago, as “paint-and-sip” experiences became popular. “I was thrilled that this idea came about to entice people without any formal art education to lose their inhibitions and have fun with paint,” she says.

Nature is one of her biggest inspirations—from creating landscapes while living at the Jersey Shore, the Catskill Mountains and the coastal areas of New England, to her travels throughout the American West. Like many artists, she draws inspiration from the vast, rugged vistas.

“While traveling in the western national parks and the Navajo Nation, my appreciation for pottery deepened,” she says, now having been a clay artist/potter for about 15 years.

Debra also discovered alcohol ink while in Arizona.

“The colors of the mountains in Sedona are extremely inspiring to artists,” she says. “I immediately fell in love with this medium and sought out an alcohol ink workshop for an introduction to this fluid art.”

While alcohol ink is a technique similar to watercolor, its vibrancy is unmatched due to higher pigmentation.

“Alcohol ink can be revitalized by adding ink or isopropyl alcohol to the dried medium—allowing for additional manipulations,” she says. “[It] allows for a freedom of expression, which I find unique and challenging. I have been practicing as an alcohol ink artist for the past six years and continue to discover new techniques and applications with this exciting medium.”

While Debra is inspired by this unique medium, as well as her travels and other artists like Claude Monet, Georgia O’Keeffe and Camille Pissarro, *she* also inspires her students. Her goal is to share the joy of art and have them walk away feeling positive and proud of their accomplishments.

“Taking a class in alcohol ink is a creative, fun learning experience for all levels,” Debra says. “In one workshop, you’ll learn several techniques to manipulate the alcohol ink to create abstract, landscape and floral designs. Put your hesitant fears aside and jump in—you will be surprised how easy it actually is.”

In addition to teaching at the Armory, she sells her beautiful pottery and fine art online and at various local markets, continuing to share her love of art with the community. To learn more about Debra’s work, visit her [website](#).

– Contributed by Hannah Deadman-Arnst
JSS Marketing and Public Relations
December 2022