

MARIST

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this short review because I want anyone interested to know:
Kathy Anderson's School for Young Artists introduces people into the space of free play inside an informed and fantastic field of safe exploration.

I started working at Kathy Anderson's School for Young artists as a Young Artist. I have early childhood memories about drawing experimentation, varieties of options for building and making sculpture. I also have those normal fluid memories of just having fun, looking forward to free-thinking and playing and getting my own, self assigned results from every class adventure. *This is a long winded way of saying that Kathy's thinktank for young minds helped me rely on my own process based life, career and continued trajectory.*

My life has been interesting, non-normative and multi-faceted. Suffice to say that I went from being an art student to a bit of a rolling stone world traveller to eventually getting a Ph.D. in Art and Biology Practice. I am currently a faculty member of the Marist College Communications, Media Studies and Production Department. I guide my students into high-level, innovative reinterpretation of creative acts, cultural artifacts and multimedia technological options. I also am known world-wide as an art and technology innovator in the expanding world of Bioart. I am working on my first book with Penn State University press.

I am not going to credit the School for Young Artists for all the nooks and crannies of an odd life. I can see that some of Kathy's individual exploration ethic has made me a better teacher and a better person encourager. Her lessons have carried on throughout the years. I still have a love for the open-ended and a deep trust in self-directed experimentation. Even when I am thinking or teaching (or parenting) experimentally, I have a feeling of assured purpose that I consider a direct effect of Kathy's version of creative acceptance of young minds unfolding. This belief (in myself and others of all ages) allows me to carry-on a practice of appreciative, balanced, thoughtful enthusiastic teaching with minimal judgment.

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Most importantly, my son now goes to Kathy Anderson's and is growing brave in experimental multimedia art and play. This is a second-generation trust that makes me happy. I continue to learn from Kathy as I watch how she interacts with young people, makes us parents think from more fair and open angles and handles real world dilemmas with real world solutions. She is also really into art and science and art and technology and letting the kids use computers for creative outlets like animation or building in 3-d spaces. I am really glad to see my son unfolding, developing leadership skills and working on his own projects at the School for Young Artists. I still go to Kathy for advice and continue to occasionally, when I need to consult my inner muses, I drop over and draw or sculpt in her nest for the thinking mind.

Kathy Andreson provides a sanctuary and a discovery center for creative process and skill sets for a proud and broader tomorrow!



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