

JOAN HARRISON

Visual Arts Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Joan Marie Harrison is an installation artist whose work reflects her concerns about social issues. Recent works have addressed the civil unrest in Los Angeles, homelessness, and factory farming. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she received her B.F.A. in Studio Art from California Institute of the Arts.

Harrison has worked extensively with children in the arts, focusing attention on honoring and challenging the best within each student. She worked as Education Coordinator for the Los Angeles Children's Museum for nine years, and has conducted workshops and artist-in-residence programs at the Bowers Museum and for the Music Center Education Division. Ms. Harrison's expertise covers many disciplines including two- and three-dimensional art, theater performance, exhibition design, and new genre media.



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STATEMENT OF TEACHING:

"As an artist/educator, one of my most important goals is to empower students in the visual arts. I like to take students' enthusiasm and energy and focus them so that they develop skills for self-expression. Each workshop addresses a specific design element or principle. Students add positive experiences and real skills to their "visual tool boxes" so that they feel secure enough to continue experimenting and working through challenges outside of the classroom. As they engage in the art-making process, students develop technical mastery, creative expression, art historical and perceptual awareness of the world. I enjoy working with teachers and offering workshops that augment current curriculum and validate students' cultural perspectives."

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Review students' ideas about art, underscoring the idea that art is both personal and universal, and that everyone's ideas will be both different and related. Discuss the importance of art in their lives. Where do they find art?
- Have the requested supplies ready before the artist arrives.
- Have student desks or work surfaces cleared. if they are made beforehand!

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn about art? What did they learn about themselves?
- Practice the skills learned in the classes and find ways to incorporate them into other areas of the curriculum.
- Continue to stress the elements and principles of visual art and encourage them to be aware of them in their drawing and other art projects.