

Instructor Spotlight: Eddie Bruckner, Art Class Instructor



What is your favorite part about teaching in conjunction with a Community Education Program?

I have loved my experience as an art instructor through Needham Community Education over the past several years! I am a full-time professional artist, but I don't teach 100% of the time; I have my studio work creating pop art acrylic paintings, have exhibitions in galleries, operate my own website and Etsy store, and love creating public art projects. I also provide one-on-one art instruction for children and adults. Teaching art at Needham Community Education has enabled me to explore these other areas further, and in turn, has made me a better art instructor. I love the variety of all that I do as an artist because they all interact, overlap, and converge together in exciting ways. I love teaching adult classes through Needham Community Education and meeting new people excited to explore painting and drawing. The main courses I teach are: Beginning Drawing, Acrylic Painting, and Colored Pencil Drawing, both during the Fall and Spring. I love the partnership I have with NCE Program Director, Amy Goldman, and the flexibility of the program to explore new classes such as Drawing From Nature and Intro to Watercolor Pencils in the summer.

Can you talk about your teaching method/philosophy?

I take my art instruction seriously, and expect students in my class to try their best, and be open to new ideas. I tend to begin my classes with an overall introduction of the basics, whether it is understanding the materials we are using (or not using, and why), a review of the principles of design, and understanding basic drawing and painting techniques and color theory. I like to focus on technique through a step-by-step guided instructional approach, creative exercises, and provide opportunities for personalized instruction in each of my classes. While I take my art instruction seriously, we also have a lot of fun! I love that there's a nice mix of beginner artists, to people who want to strengthen their existing skill-set, to people who are just trying something new and different!

How do you motivate students?

I motivate students by showing them specific techniques; by painting and drawing along with them; and by providing positive encouragement and honest critique. I'm very patient in the classroom, making it an educational and fun, positive experience.

What do you want students to walk away from class with?

At the end of my class, I'd love my students to reflect on their progress, to be proud of their artwork and the skills they have learned, and to be energized to create more art at home or in a future class. It's the biggest compliment when someone who takes one of my classes signs up for another class, or two, or three...!

Can you talk about a favorite piece of your artwork or an art experience?

I love all my paintings, even the not-so-good ones because they all contributed to my growth and development as a professional visual artist. I love my Citgo Sign paintings, my Oreo Cookie Series, and my public art projects. My artwork is about having fun, bringing a smile to people's faces, and at the same time, providing a unique way of experiencing some of our most familiar objects, places, or people. I view my artwork as a visual representation of happiness,

love, and the beautification of physical space. I love how public art achieves this goal and reaches so many people. My latest public art installation, "The Flag Project" is happening now at Rockefeller Center in New York City, August 1-23, 2020. My Flag design for this temporary Public Art Project is hanging from the flagpoles that surround The Rink at Rockefeller Center to celebrate the diverse culture, vibrant energy, and strength of New York City! I've also created a painted piano for the Celebrity Series of Boston and the global art installation, "Play Me, I'm Yours". I was commissioned by the City of Boston's Public Art Commission to paint an electrical box near Fenway Park and have done a second electrical box with a Boston Marathon Theme along the Marathon route in Natick. I have some more exciting projects in the works in the coming months as well! You can check out my website EddieBruckner.com to explore my artwork and pick your own favorite!

Can you share your interests outside of art/teaching?

I'm an artist member of the Attleboro Museum of Art and a member of the Wellesley Society of Artists. I love to go to the movies, socialize with friends, and travel and explore the world with my wife, Debra, and two children, Rachel and Sam.

To stay up to date, I encourage you to follow me on Facebook and Instagram [@EddieBrucknerFineArt](https://www.instagram.com/EddieBrucknerFineArt) and visit my website, EddieBruckner.com. I hope to see you at an upcoming class of mine!