

2026 NYSATA Summer Institute at Great Camp Sagamore

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Week 1—July 19-25, 2026

Bound & Adorned: Mixed Media with Resin and Polymer Clay with Jen Impey

Boat Building Shop - limit 6 participants; \$100 Materials fee

Participants will learn the fundamentals and advanced techniques of both 2-part and UV resin, including how to safely mix, pour, and embed materials such as glitter, mica powder, dried flowers, and custom vinyl designs. Projects will include creating a hand-bound resin journal and unique resin jewelry pieces using a variety of surface and layering techniques.

The course will also dive into the expressive world of polymer clay, covering methods such as bargello patterning, gradient cane construction, and creative grouting techniques to add texture and depth. Each participant will have the opportunity to submit a design in advance for a custom clay cutter to use during the workshop. By week's end, artists will leave with a collection of personalized creations, new technical skills, and the confidence to integrate resin, vinyl, and clay into their own art or classroom practice.

Encaustic Mixed Media with Jen Matott & Beth Atkinson

Henhouse - limit 6 participants; \$150 Materials fee

Unleash your creativity through the rich, tactile world of **encaustic mixed media**—a dynamic fusion of hot beeswax, pigments, and layered materials. This strand invites participants to explore the expressive potential of working with **encaustic techniques combined with collage, photo transfer, found objects, and mark-making with a variety of materials**.

You'll learn the fundamentals of encaustic painting, including safe studio practices, fusing methods, and surface manipulation. From smooth, luminous glazes to deeply textured surfaces, encaustic offers a unique medium for experimentation and personal storytelling.

Participants are encouraged to bring personal materials such as paper ephemera, photographs, images printed using laser printers or photocopiers or small found objects to incorporate into their work. +\$150 materials fee.

Material, Theme, Composition—Fiber Arts Strand with Cindy Henry

Play House - limit 8 participants; \$100 materials fee

Fabric invites a multitude of processes for creative expression. Participants will explore many possibilities for surface preparation, design, and construction to develop their own textile work. Create unique raw materials (fabrics) using textile paints and a variety of application methods. Explore theme building and design/composition through a series of “auditioning” exercises in paper and fabric. Begin construction of one or more personally expressive fabric/mixed media pieces. Bring a sewing machine you are comfortable using with little assistance. Basic sewing skills are needed.

Many essential materials are provided, including textile paints, raw fabric for painting, and fusible web for adhering layers. Participants will receive an additional supply list with some essential and many optional materials.


Mixed Media Expressive Painting with Judy Kosinski & Sculpting with Nature with Kelly Tomasello

Barn limit 15 participants; \$50 Materials Fee

Mixed Media Expressive Painting

In this workshop, we will be working with acrylic and alcohol inks, along with other media creating layers that will lead to funky, whimsical paintings! Inspired by nature, we will start with a loose abstract background that will pave the way for your own expressive interpretations. A negative painting technique will allow you to isolate and refine your composition, then add more complexity and definition with patterned drawing and additional layers. A fun, different, loose way to create!

Sculpting with Nature:

Use all natural materials to create an assemblage or sculpture. Use your imagination and the beauty of nature as your guide. Willow, reed, and drift wood make an excellent base while dried flowers, moss, bark, and other natural findings make for beautiful embellishments. Let's be at one with nature at Camp Sagamore. 

Watercolor Four Ways: Techniques & Exploration with Paula Wescott, Sue Murphy, Janet Vedder, Marnie McLaughlin

Collins - limit 7 participants; No Materials Fee

Watercolor Techniques and Exploration

Discover the core techniques of watercolor surrounded by the natural beauty of Sagamore. Participants will build a strong foundation in brush control, wet into wet, color mixing, and rendering light and shadow, before advancing to more complex techniques. Through demonstrations, guided practice, and individual feedback, participants will gain confidence and develop their personal approach to watercolor. Whether you're new to watercolor or want to improve your skills, this course provides a supportive environment for artistic growth.

Day One: Foundations in Watercolor

Begin with the essentials, understanding materials, brush handling, and color mixing. Create a color wheel and explore form, light, and shadow while painting fruit using a simple color triad. Learn to control water and pigment to achieve clarity, contrast, and harmony in your compositions.

Day Two: Techniques and Texture

Learn about negative painting and glazing while working with floral subjects to explore transparency and layering. In the afternoon we will explore landscape elements, for example painting clouds, skies, trees, and textures such as bark and grass. Experiment with masking and other surface techniques to bring depth and detail to your work.

Day Three: Painting Sagamore

Take your skills outdoors or work from photographs to explore composition, and capture light and atmosphere. Emphasis will be placed on simplifying complex scenes and working quickly to capture the essence of place.

Day Four: People, Animals, Abstraction, you name it:

Choose a pet, person, or place and apply the techniques learned throughout the week to achieve a finished, expressive watercolor portrait. The workshop concludes with a personal project based on photographic reference, applying learned skills throughout the week.

Week 2—July 25-31, 2026

Original Program with Strand Presenters

Barn - limit 15 participants; No Materials Fee

A little bit of everything from the other strands. Participants will be introduced to a variety of techniques and materials that can be used for classroom lessons or individual personal use. These may include fiber arts, intuitive painting, needle punching, drawing techniques, wet felting, and many more.

Punch & Tuft: An Exploration of Fibers with Lauren Nels & Jenny Brown

Boat Building Shop - limit 5 participants; \$200 materials fee

Join Lauren Nels for an introduction to the vibrant world of tufting! Participants will spend half the week learning the complete tufting process from start to finish using a tufting gun. Each participant may complete two rugs or several smaller pieces. The session will also cover creative strategies for incorporating tufting into the classroom. Participants should contact Lauren prior to the week with design ideas to work from. Additional details about materials and yarn preparation will be provided.

Join Jenny Brown and explore the colorful world of punch needle using embroidery floss in this fun, beginner-friendly workshop. You'll learn essential techniques for outlining, filling, and adding texture while creating 1-2 small works of art.

Independent Strand with Shannon Elliot

Play House - limit 8 participants; No Materials Fee

The best thing about the Independent Strand is connecting with other artists in a genuine and nourishing studio environment. There are no "shoulds" in the Playhouse. The schedule for the strand is purposefully wide-open to foster deep focus and natural breaks. Work quietly (or not), come up for air, talk with a thought-partner, try out a new idea or technique. Have snacks. Get back to who you always were—an artist. "Don't worry about your originality. You could not get rid of it even if you wanted to (Robert Henri)."

1. Bring any and all materials you'll want to work with during the week, but also plan to be inspired by others and share materials, space, thoughts, ideas, snacks, beverages, etc.
2. The playhouse has poor lighting and only a few outlets. Be sure to bring a desk lamp

and extension cord, and a cushion for your chair.

3. There is no wi-fi in the playhouse, so please plan accordingly. You can access wi-fi in Collins (next door) or the Barn.

4. Please feel free to pick my brain if you are new to independent studio and trying to decide what to work on or bring. I love to talk about art and ideas. You never know, I might share a story.

5. EVERYONE should bring a roll of paper towels to share for the bathroom and studio. Please and thank you!

Dyeing to Stitch & Sew with Lisa Federici & Monica Czernecki

Hen House—limit 8 participants; \$100 materials fee

Curious about the world of fiber arts and eager to try something new? In this workshop, you'll explore different materials and techniques to create unique projects using fibers and fabrics. We'll experiment with natural dyeing, batik, fabric collage, and hand stitching. By combining your hand-dyed fabrics with simple stitching techniques, you'll craft personalized fabric collages that reflect your own style. This workshop is a great opportunity to learn basic skills and enjoy the creative process at your own pace!

Digital Mixed Media with Procreate with Veronica Kruger & Nick Napierala

Collins – limit 8 participants; No Materials Fee

Participants must have their own iPad with Procreate.

Days 1 & 2 – Nick Napierala- Basics of Procreate

This hands-on workshop will help you become more familiar with your Procreate app. You will learn how to use the software to create basic paintings, including use of layers, brush styles, fill and color techniques, as well as shading using opacity and transparency locking. Participants will make a basic sticker for print, as well as a painting project that can be used in part 2 of the workshop.

Days 3 & 4 – Veronica Kruger

Learn how to create digital collages with intention and meaning using Procreate. In this hands-on workshop, you'll explore, play, and experiment with imagery to build visually compelling collages that tell a story. We'll walk through the creative collage process step by step—from gathering and curating elements to composing and completing a finished piece—

while encouraging curiosity, exploration, and personal expression. Whether you're new to digital collage or looking to deepen your practice, this workshop will give you practical tools and inspiration to create with purpose.

What You Will Learn

- Key actions and techniques to use throughout the collage process
- How to create and curate your own unique set of collage elements
- Different ways to complete your collage, digitally or through mixed media

What You Will Get

- A ready-to-use set of collage elements
- Special Procreate collage brushes