

Ateliers

Possibilities and Complexities: Reconnecting, Reimagining, Relaunching

Below, the content of each *atelier* is described. Sign-up sheets reflecting the capacity for each room are on the registration tables in the Italian Cultural Centre Grand Ballroom during the reception on Thursday evening, October 20 and during the mid-morning break and lunch break on Friday morning, October 21. You must secure your spot in advance as space is limited in all sessions.

Atelier Session 1 | Friday

(CAPACITY OF 35)

Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material Exhibition and Atelier

Since the beginning of time humans have left their mark in the world. From ancient cave drawings to famous works of art, mark-making expresses thinking. Drawing and telling stories means imagining, analyzing, and exploring spaces, forms, colors, words, metaphors, emotions, rhythms, and pauses, entering into a narrative dimension that is both internal and external to the self, playing on reality, fiction, and interpretations. This *atelier* provides educators with opportunities to encounter mark-making materials in a hands-on encounter inspired by the educators in Reggio Emilia.

Facilitated by Gabriela Garcia

Italian Cultural Centre, *Il Museo*

Atelier Session 2 | Saturday

(CAPACITY OF 20)

Black and White Palette

Defining forms and methods of communication helps us to choose what we observe with greater awareness. We wonder: What relationships are established between the drawing instruments and the supports? By designing contexts within an established palette, we can focus on what each material affords. In this session, participants will choose and explore materials within a defined palette of black, white, and gray materials while discovering connections and confronting the unforeseen.

Facilitated by Kristi Reinhardt & Jessica Vailes

Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre | Xerox Conference Room 1500

Atelier Session 3 | Saturday

(CAPACITY OF 20)

Natural Materials

This session will be intentionally rich in natural materials that leave marks and materials that receive marks, placing attention on the experiences that ensue. As teachers of young children, we have many questions that arise as we design and prepare contexts for young children. This session will be a time for exploration, experimentation, dialogue, and reflection around the contexts we offer young children that give value to their competencies.

Facilitated by Kym Cook

Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre | Tree Island Room 1510

Atelier Session 4 | Saturday

(CAPACITY OF 25)

Chromatic Palette

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Facilitated by Gabriela Garcia

Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre | Westcoast Energy Executive Room 2250

Atelier Facilitator Biographies



Kym Cook is a studio educator at Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool in Atlanta, Georgia and is in her 18th year with Project Infinity. She has been working in the early childhood education field for over 26 years. Kym studied art and education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and the University of Montana. The experiences of motherhood and teaching have kept her world full of color and three study tours in Reggio Emilia raised that to technicolor. Once Kym had those opportunities and saw firsthand how the educators in Reggio Emilia truly honor young children's thinking, the way she teaches has changed forever. In her free time, she is a fine jewelry ceramic artist.



Gabriela Garcia is a strong advocate for the rights of young children and is passionate about the Reggio Emilia Approach. She is a founding member of Project Infinity and the founding director of the Grant Park Cooperative Preschool in Atlanta, Georgia where she worked as executive director and *pedagogista* for 20 years. Originally from Mendoza, Argentina, Gabriela is fluent in Spanish and English. She is currently a program associate at NAREA, supporting professional development partnerships and other NAREA initiatives.



Kristi Reinhardt is a studio educator at Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool in Atlanta, Georgia. With 11 years of experience working in a Reggio-inspired school, she brings her love of photography and innovation to the daily life with children and families. Kristi assisted with the *Bordercrossings atelier* and the *Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material atelier* at the 2022 NAREA Summer Conference, as well as several community ateliers, in Atlanta. She studied therapeutic recreation, applied behavior analysis, and photography at Indiana University.



Jessica Vailes has been an educator at Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool since 2001. She first fell in love with the Reggio Emilia Approach to learning when she participated in a Reggio-inspired professional development initiative at one of the original collaborative schools of Project Infinity in 2003. Jessica then became an integral part of the process of Peachtree's study and transition to a Reggio-inspired preschool. She has participated in NAREA conferences in Tulsa, New York, and Washington, DC, and two study groups in Reggio Emilia. Jessica is an advocate for building children's love for nature and believes that it is vital to the education of young children.