Art Spotlight
Campers Are Invited to the Global Village

Camp Art Academy is especially excited to welcome our guest artist this week, Terry Owen, artist, owner and proprietor of Silk Road Textiles in College Hill. More than a retail store, Silk Road Textiles is a piece of art itself - filled with ethically produced and traded textiles and fibers from around the world - right here in Cincinnati! They also host weekly classes and workshops for beginners to advanced practitioners. Silk Road Textiles specializes in “the beautiful, the exotic, the unusual, and the fun”... and that’s just what Terry will be bringing to our campers!

Community engagement and entrepreneurship comes naturally to Terry who has an incredible background; she taught for the Peace Corps in Liberia for two years! Her students there were young mothers needing a source of independent income, so she taught them to make clothing and to sell it at markets. Her extensive background in education includes a degree in family and consumer science and she was a school teacher for thirty years!

Terry will be working with our campers to hand-make the Moroccan fabric beads used to adorn everything from clothing, musical instruments, and bowls as well as used for jewelry and curtains! She will inspire our campers with exotic tales of the open-air textile markets she remembers from her travels. This is not an opportunity our campers will likely get in a typical art classroom at school and we are so grateful for her appearance. Camp Art Academy also recognizes our friends at Mill Valley Upholstery, downtown on 7th street, for their generous donation of fabric for Moroccan Bazaar week. Find Silk Road Textiles at: www.silkroadcincinnati.com.
To explain this rich culture one must understand Morocco’s geography and tumultuous history. With borders on the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean coastlines, the country is located between Algeria and the Western Sahara on the northwestern coast of Africa. After two-dozen centuries of Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Jewish, Portuguese, Spanish, French and British occupations, Morocco finally got its independence. Morocco is a complex culmination of several ancient cultures to create one diverse culture of its own; a blend of Arab, indigenous Berber, African, and European influences.

Visual art has a long and thriving history in Morocco. Ancient traditions and diversity of culture have given birth to a richness of Moroccan craft with more than 70 trades using a wide-range of materials.

The cities have an old and a newer section; the medina (pre-colonial), and the ville nouvelle (French colonial city). The medinas are typically surrounded by walls and towers- built for protection- and look like sand castles on the outside. Inside the city are lush gardens and fountains, with complex, colorful mosaics that adorn walls, mosques and shops. One design utilizes repetitions of a simple pattern, known as zillij - an Islamic tile artwork. Artists chisel a single colored tile into a precise geometric, floral or calligraphic pattern and then replicate this process hundreds of times to create intricate patterns and tessellations in simple, bright, and often whitewashed colors.

The hand-woven carpet is a popular form of art. This prehistoric tradition is now considered among the finest examples of contemporary folkart. Rugs are woven by tribes people and the designs are ancient, passed down from weaver to weaver. Traditional Berber carpets are woven together from camel hair or sheep wool with saffron, mint or pomegranate used to make the vibrant colors.

The scents of the spice market, the smell of orange flower blossom in the sea air, the magical Mediterranean light, the souk, and walls themselves make the perfect punctuation to this madcap cultural mash-up that has inspired artists and philosophers. French-Moroccan contemporary artist Yto Barrada, the painters and illustrator Lawrence Mynott, the graphic designer Anthea Mynott, Impressionist Majorelle and Matisse, William S. Burroughs, and even Tennessee Williams and Allen Ginsberg were famously inspired. So let’s visit the bazaars of Casablanca, Fes, Tangiers, and Rabat to get campers equally inspired too!

In Inspiration,
Ramona Toussaint

Meet Our Team
Bradly Givlin, Artistic Style, Down on the Farm

Bradly Gilvin is an Art Academy of Cincinnati student pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing. He is entering his senior year and new to Camp Art Academy. So, we asked him what he thought of the experience.

What inspired you to become an artist? What are the types of art you are most interested in?

BG: I’ve been drawing since I could hold a pencil. I really wanted to be an architect when I was little and drew buildings in great detail; I drew the outsides, the insides, the floor plans… everything! I was meticulous. When I went shopping with my mom I would buy house plan books! In high school I took all the art classes I could, which broadened my interests and abilities.

I focus mostly on sculpture, with a focus on the rural lifestyle. I was raised on a farm so things like plush, stuffed cows and chickens really influence my work. My grandparents influenced my artistic development. My grandmother taught me to sew, and my grandfather was a talented folk artist. He has been my greatest influence to integrate the materials and themes related to a rural lifestyle into my artwork.

What do you love about Camp Art Academy?

BG: The family-like atmosphere of camp is fun and welcoming. Although I was an artistic kid I never attended classes or camps until I got older, and looking back I really wish I had. What we do here is not crafty – it’s at a really high artistic level! The instructors and assistants are all trained artists, and the guest artists and field trips expose campers to the real art world. Finally, I think Camp Art Academy is a great place to discover that anything can be art, because we get to work with unusual materials and processes not found in school. I feel passionately about art and hope to help campers develop their own passions.

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