



VERMONT ART EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION 2023 SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Join us for this years VAEA 2023 Fall Conference!

Friday, September 29th &
Saturday, September 30th
at Lake Morey Resort &
Stone Valley Arts



Friday's Keynote Paula Liz

Paula Liz (she/her) [pao-la-
lees] is an artist, activist,
educator, and author. She
was born in Puerto Rico

and attended
the Maryland Institute of Art, receiving a
bachelor of fine arts in painting and a master's
degree in art education. She has taught art in
New York, Texas, Washington, DC, and
Maryland, where she was named art educator
of the year in 2022. Her passion for justice,
equity, diversity, and inclusion are at the
center of her lessons and expand beyond the
classroom. Paula Liz is a member of the
National Art Education Association's Equity,
Diversity, and Inclusion Commission and an
initial cohort member of the Maryland
Department of Education's Anti-Racist
Educators in the Arts Learning Lab (A-REALL).
She enjoys traveling, running, and spending
time with her husband and two dogs. Learn
more at paulalizart.com.

[Click Me! I'm the link to
registration!](#)



Saturday's Workshop Presenter Chief Don Stevens

Chief Don Stevens is an award-winning
leader, businessman, writer, and
lecturer. He has been featured in
magazines, books, TV shows, and
documentaries. He was appointed to the Vermont
Commission on Native American Affairs by Governor Douglas in
2006 for two terms, where he served as Chair and led the
fight to obtain legal recognition for the Abenaki People in
Vermont. Chief Stevens was able to acquire tribal land for
the Nulhegan Tribe which had been absent for over 200
years. A gifted storyteller, he speaks about issues of Native
American Sovereignty, Racial Disparity, and Abenaki Identity.
He was appointed by the Attorney General to the "Racial
Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems
Advisory Panel" and serves on the Lake Champlain Sea Grant
Advisory Panel and the Vermont State Police Fairness and
Diversity Advisory Panel. Don is married to his lovely wife
Diana Stevens. They have 6 children and 8 grandchildren.



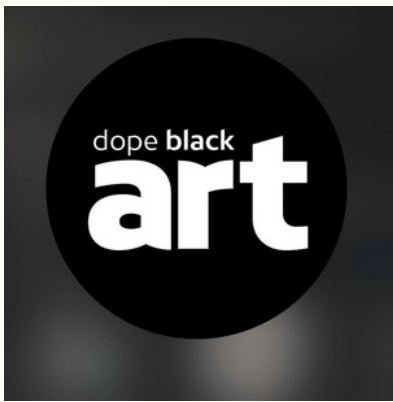
Getting Doses of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Everyday

Sometimes in our equity, diversity and inclusion journey we find ourselves overwhelmed and unsure where to go. What do I do next as an ally and co-conspirator? I don't always have time to read a whole book or hours to research. Something that I do to incorporate social justice in my everyday life is make sure it is included in my social media, which I am on daily. It is a great resource and way to hear the voices of those different from you, and I use it to discover artists to share with my students. Below are highlights of some of the resources I use, but there are many many more!

Dr. Nikki Lanier

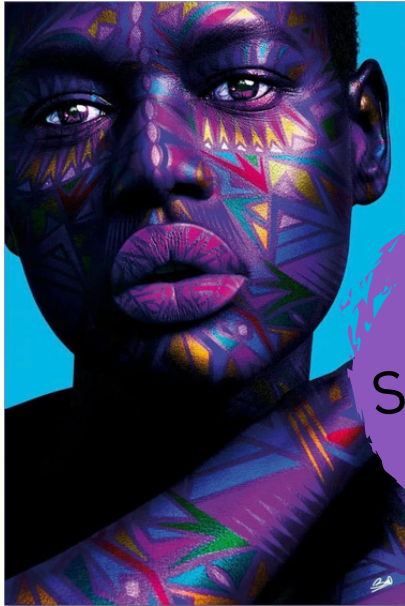


Nikki Lanier is a keynote speaker, consultant, and racial equity strategist. I follow her on TikTok @nikki_lanier and on instagram drnikkilanier, she also has a facebook account Dr. Nikki R. Lanier. She just had on TikTok a 5 day Equity Challenge. These were short videos that I found amazingly informative. Day 1: three laws to know, Day 2: three things to stop believing, Day 3: three social media accounts to follow, Day 4: three (ish) things to stop saying, and Day 5: three laws to die on the hill. I learned so much through just these five videos. And she directed me to more resources.

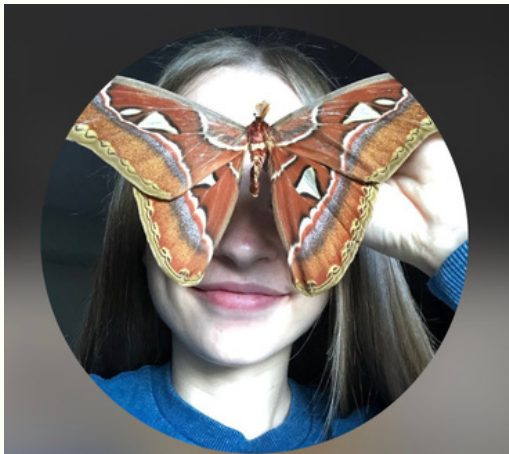


“Championing black culture through visual art”

You can follow Dope Black Art on Instagram. They have really amazing artwork by artists of color. I have found a lot of amazing artists this way that I then follow on their personal accounts. I have also used Instagram to find artists and purchase prints through them for my classroom. This is a great way to find contemporary artists of all different back grounds. Below are two works that I pulled off of the Dope Black Art Instagram account.

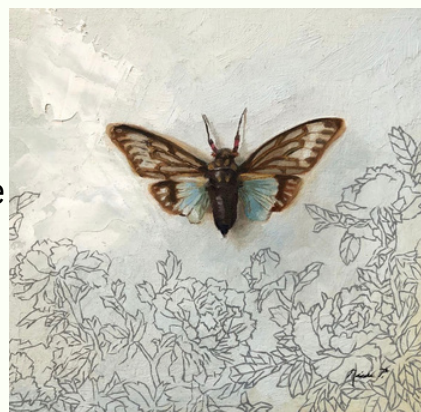


Artist:
Saro Barre



Our last artist featured is @soundoftheforest (Tiktok) or Nicole Parish art (Instagram).

Nicole is an amazing human who is autistic. She uses her Tiktok platform to talk about what it's like being autistic. She loves insects, mushrooms, and moss and her art often features these things. She sells her work to afford her independent living. To the right are two of her paintings.



Printmaking Workshop with Matt Brown



VAEA members had an amazing day at the all day immersive Japanese printmaking workshop with Matt Brown. “Vermont Vistas” took place at the Middlebury Studio School on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Matt Brown is a master of the Japanese Hanga technique that involves watercolor inks on woodblocks. His prints capture the beauty of Vermont and New Hampshire’s lakes and mountains which can be found at his gallery in Lyme, NH as well as at his website <https://ooloopress.com/index6/> Participants were amazed that they were able to create multicolored prints in a short six hour session. Matt also runs three day workshops at the Cotton Free Library in Weybridge. This event was part of our Youth Art Month activities for Vermont art educators.

YAM

Vermont Vistas



Vermont Youth Art Month returned to the State capital this past year with “Vermont Vistas”.

At the reception, on Friday, March 31, 2023, we had over a dozen schools attend. The highlight of the show was the ceramic mural of the state of Vermont, created by multiple schools from each region represented. This beautiful creation is now a permanent installation at The Vermont Department of Education. Thank you to Robbie Carlton for taking on the organization and execution of this event.



Also congratulations to all the art educators to participate in the first year of “Vermont Voices”, our show just for educator work. All the artwork submitted was displayed in the lovely Monpelier Gallery by the Vermont Arts Council.



STAY TUNED FOR THIS YEAR'S YAM OFFERINGS!



Congratulations to Stephanie Harper, our 2022 Vermont Teacher Of The Year. Stephanie has been teaching for 12 years at Lake Region Union High School in Orleans, Vermont. Stephanie was nominated by LRUHS Library Media Specialist Faith Lucas.” She goes above and beyond to help students with the love of art and students that may struggle in her class. She creates lessons that are relevant to current events that are going on in the world and creates different lessons that engage students to do better and to make art part of their lives.” She was honored at the National Art Education Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Eastern Leader Ship Conference

Greetings
from
Princeton,
NJ



New Jersey finally got their moment to shine as they hosted the 2023 Eastern Leadership Conference after previously being canceled due to the pandemic. Delegates participated in a very competitive scavenger hunt where Vermont delegates Meghan Doherty and Melissa Kristiansen proudly tied for first place. They had an unprecedented [13 position statements](#) to review and a “divide and conquer” strategy helped them accomplish this goal.

NAEA delegates have now created a shared state [resource repository](#). This spreadsheet allows all states to share links and not reinvent the wheel. We also found we are sharing common problems with recruitment and retention of teachers, advocacy, and money and time constraints. Team East hopes to create monthly Zoom sessions to discuss our common obstacles.





Their time in Princeton was not all work. They had time to explore art galleries and museums, and learn about the exciting art expansions at Princeton University. They also had a day trip to the amazing Grounds For Sculpture that houses the larger than life recreations of fine art masterpieces by Seward Johnson as well as the work of over 400 contemporary sculptors. If you have a moment, check out their [website](#)



The upcoming summer of 2024 will be districts from all regions together. The plans are still in the works.

YAM 2024!

YAM is our youth art month,
which occurs in March.

This years theme with be “The Artistic Journey”.
Student work will be showcased through our Vermont at various
rest stops.

There will be another Art Educator show this year.
More info to come.

In January we will hold a YAM workshop for educators in order to
kickoff another collaborative art piece for the Vermont
Department of Education.

A Special Thank You

To companies and businesses that made donations and supported our Fall Conference.

