

DIANE MARGIOTTA

Where were you born? San Jose, California

Where did you grow up? San Jose, California

What is your educational background and where did you go to school?
My undergraduate studies were at University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) and my Master of Fine Arts from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore. My education was highlighted by visiting professors and international students.

Do you currently teach elsewhere or have you in the past?
I taught in high schools and community colleges in Baltimore, but have found my strength in teaching seniors and those with disabilities.

What is the one quality you feel best describes you? Enthusiastic empathy

What other interests, hobbies and pastimes are you passionate about?
I love dance. I'm also passionate about long hikes along the coast and in the mountains with friends and dogs. I'm drawn to literature and people from faraway places too.

What do you think you'll enjoy most about teaching for the Emeritus Institute?
I look forward to teaching for Emeritus! I believe art is essentially therapeutic and expressive –- beyond just being an attractive image.

What message would you like to send to your current and future Emeritus Students about yourself and/or what they can expect from your classes?
I believe in the importance of listening to very different points of view – and as an art educator, this ability helps me to see the potential in each individual. In my ideal class, each student's style is realized; each student interprets techniques in their own way, rather than a class where students paint in the style of the teacher.

Please tell us your best tips that have helped you cope with the pandemic challenges to everyday life.
I would be out dancing if we didn't have COVID restrictions… yet I can dance with my paint brush as well as clay while we wait for "normal."

Tell us a "FUN FACT" about you.
Every morning I journal my thanks and read a bit, then quickly do a drawing based on that literary passage . . . and I sing a little!