

Alumni Spotlight: Jenna Luente

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What school did you attend with NYSSA?

I attended Visual Arts.

What year did you attend NYSSA?

I attended in 1989 - the year between my junior and senior year in high school.

What was your favorite NYSSA memory?

All of it - mostly the new friends I made and being fully immersed in art every day. It was also the first time I was away from home, and I loved it.

How did NYSSA develop your skills as a young artist?

NYSSA developed my skills in so many ways. The full immersive experience really helped to secure my decision to study art in college. I really valued spending several hours a day on my artwork, and by taking some different classes I really got to see what worked best for me. I also had some great teachers - one of whom went to Syracuse University and recommended I apply for my undergraduate - which I did – and also loved. I am not sure I would have considered Syracuse if I had not gone to NYSSA.

What are you doing now?

I am a full-time college professor of Art as well as a practicing Artist with a studio at the Delaware Contemporary as I now live in Delaware.

What project are you most proud of since leaving NYSSSA?

I've done a lot since leaving NYSSSA. I've continued to make art through the years, and exhibit my work in many galleries. The art project I am most proud of is my public art commission at the Arthur Kill Station in Staten Island, New York. I was commissioned by the MTA to design 28 glass windows and this public artwork will remain in the station permanently.



What advice would you offer to our current NYSSSA students?

My advice to current students would be to enjoy every moment of it and absorb the entire experience. To stay in touch with the great people you meet and make the most out of your teachers. Enjoy the ballet. Make Art. Treasure your time away from your normal home life. Also, be nice to your roommate!



1 Arthur Kill Transit, public artwork by Jenna Luente, Commissioned by MTA Art and Design. Glass fabrication by Mayer of Munich. Photography by Michael McWeeney