

ABOUT THE JUROR

Wendy Morris

Involved in the field of art & disabilities for 25 years I am passionate about helping persons with developmental disabilities to realize their talents and explore and express their creativity. Sophie's Gallery, our studio and gallery located in Downtown El Cajon is part of the art programming offered by St. Madeleine Sophie's Center. Over the years Sophie's has grown to include print making, painting, mixed media, photography, weaving, silk screening, sewing, jewelry, fused glass, mosaics and a ceramics department on our main campus. We are currently collaborating with Apple in classes that are teaching cutting edge technology in photography, film-making and music using iPads.

Through the arts Sophie's artists have gained self-confidence, technical skills, community recognition, and a chance to earn money from the sale of their artwork. Sophie's art program maintains an active and full calendar with local, regional, national, and international shows and events. Our numerous partnerships such as those with Bread & Cie, the San Diego International Airport, USD, UCLA, the City of El Cajon, NBC, The Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Villa Musica, the Japanese Friendship Garden, and Kasei Kai Center in Osaka, Japan, to name a few, have brought attention to our program and thrust our artists into the limelight.

My interest in folk and outsider art started while researching at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, for an introductory art history class at the University of Pittsburgh. Among the masters I stumbled across paintings by John Kane, William Johnson, and Horace Pippin. Their discovery forever changed focus and this interest was inline with my discovery of artists with developmental disabilities in 1992.

Throughout my life I have been active in the arts and in helping others to cultivate their talents in art. Over the years I experimented with photography, printmaking, jewelry design, drawing, and computer illustration. In my free time I make earrings using repurposed jewelry elements and vintage watch dials.