

## Despina Statelova

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### Art Professional: Educator/Fine Artist

Innovative and Collaborative

Every person has the power of creative thought. I foster an environment that cultivates students' individuality and ability to think for themselves. A quality, all-inclusive, visual arts education (history, critique, aesthetics and production) aids students in developing critical thinking, multiple-solution strategies, independent judgment, team-work skills, and increased tolerance. Art propels students to excel in their other areas of interest and their comprehension of the world.

### Education & Credentials

<b>B.A., Art &amp; B.A., Psychology</b> Guilford College, Greensboro, NC, GPA: 3.93	May 2003
Concentrations in Communications and German Language and Society	
Senior Honors Art Thesis in Drawing and Sculpture	
<b>Teacher of Art</b> New Jersey State Certification	March 2006 (renewed December 2010)
<b>Teacher of Art</b> New Jersey Provisional Certification	January 2005

### Honors & Awards

<b>Innovations in Special Education</b> , New Jersey School Boards Association	2009
<b>Honorable Mention</b> , Juried Show, <i>Art on the Edge</i> , Belmar Arts Council, Belmar, NJ	2011
<b>Honorable Mention</b> , Juried Show, Guild of Creative Arts, Shrewsbury, NJ	2005
<b>Guilford Scholar Award</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	1999-2003
<b>Dean's List</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	1999-2003
<b>Honors Program Graduate</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	1999-2003
<b>High Institutional Honors</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2003
<b>Department Honors in Art</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2003
<b>Outstanding Senior in Psychology Award</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2003
<b>First Place Award in Sculpture</b> , Student Juried Show, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2002
<b>First Place Award in Design</b> , Student Juried Show, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2002
<b>Second Place Award in Drawing</b> , Student Juried Show, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2001
<b>College Marshall</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC	2000-2003

### Professional Experience

<b>Art Teacher</b> , The Rugby School at Woodfield, Wall, NJ	January 2005 - present
<b>Art Instructor/Art Therapy Assistant</b> , The Rugby School at Woodfield, Wall, NJ	November 2003 – January 2005

- K-12, emotionally and behaviorally challenged students
- Designed and implemented cross-curricular classes, where classroom teachers collaborate with the visual arts program to create art classes based on and expanding the material the students are covering in social studies, history, and science.
- Designed *Arts in the Workplace* program serving senior recreational centers, intended to ready students who are artistically inclined for entrance to college and the workplace, as well as to cultivate their awareness of and respect for old age; implemented program at the Allaire Senior Center, Wall, NJ & Two Tower Lodge, Wall, NJ (2003 – present)
- Organized curriculum-based trips to the Museum of Modern Art, NYC, NY; the Newark Museum, Newark, NJ, Grounds for sculpture, Hamilton, NJ; Hot Sand Glassblowing, Asbury Park, NJ; Two River Theater, Red Bank, NJ; Algonquin Arts, Algonquin, NJ; theme based photography trips in Monmouth and Ocean county
- Organized and ran Distance Learning Videoconferences with the Museum of Modern Art, NY, NY; The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C., The Paley Center for Media, LA, CA;

- Arranged extensive exhibitions of student work at the Rugby School, *Teen Arts*, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ, *Monmouth Festival of the Arts*, Monmouth Reformed Temple, Tinton Falls, NJ; *Art Educators of New Jersey & Monmouth County Arts Council Student Art Exhibit*, Middletown, NJ (2003 – present)
- Workshop presenter at the Rugby School ( 2010-2011), Art Educators of NJ Conference: *Fine Art, Found Objects, Fantastic Creatures* (2006), *Yoga: Art in Motion* (2007, 2008); ASAH Conference: *Book's Not Dead* (2010), *Hello Dolly* (November 2011)
- Planned and executed culminating school year events, including but not limited to inventing theme, designing logo for event, designing and ordering t-shirts with logo for students and staff, advertisement in the press & flyers and posters distributed and hung in local businesses, catering to circa 300 people (school & the public), ordering seating, tents, materials, and food (to be prepared by culinary program) with a full-day schedule including student and professional performances as well as visiting artists; design and prep art-related activities delegated to school staff throughout the day, trained staff to run workshops for events such as RugbyStock, Multicultural Day, Native American Day (preceded by a week of collaboration with visiting artists), Carnivale, The Wizard of Oz.
- Set, prop, and costume design for major school-wide play productions: *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Cinderella*, *The Nut Cracker*, *Back to the Future*
- Submitted student work for student exhibits & contests including: Monmouth County & State Teen Arts (2004 – present), Congressional art contests (2003 – present), AENJ exhibits & contests (2003 – present), VSA art contest (2003 – 2007), Monmouth Festival of the Arts (2003 – present), Monmouth County Council of the Arts: participated in state-wide art projects on the themes: Figures of Speech, Peace, Puzzle Pieces, Chinese Takeout (2003 – present), ASAH Poster Contest (2003 – present), Aviation Poster Contest (2003- 2010), Drug Free New Jersey folder design (2009-present), Anti-Bullying poster contest (2011)
- Students have been recognized in: Monmouth County & State Teen Arts, Congressional art contests, AENJ exhibits & contests, Monmouth Festival of the Arts, VSA art contest, ASAH Poster Contest, Cablevision Cyber-bullying contest.
- Planned, designed, assisted students to execute murals throughout the Rugby School connected to curricular studies
- Planned for, designed and executed school calendar by photographing students' gargoyle sculptures in installations representing the months of the year
- Provided and selected illustrations for the Rugby School literary magazine by matching up photographs of 2D & 3D student art work to poetry and prose
- Throughout school year documented student artwork and projects
- Assisted students as needed with portfolio preparation and applications for further education
- Assisted with material for the yearbook, 2003 – present

### Memberships and Associations

Monmouth County Art Alliance, Red Bank, NJ (2004 – present)  
 Belmar Arts Council (2005 – present)  
 Collective Arts Tank, Asbury Park, NJ (2010 – present)  
 Co-founder of Shore Women's Abstract Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ (2009-2010)  
 Art Educators of New Jersey ( 2004- present)  
 ASAH, American Social Health Association (2003 – present)  
 Inspired Life Studios, Long Branch, NJ (2009 – 2010)  
 Guild of Creative Arts, Shrewsbury, NJ (2004-2008)  
 Lyrical Expressionist Group, Shrewsbury, NJ (2006 – 2008)  
 APEX Gallery, Mount Holly, NJ (2007)  
 Collective Arts Tank, Asbury Park, NJ (2010 – present)  
 The Optimist Club (2003 – present)

### Related Experience

- Exhibited work, prepared and hung art shows at SWAG (2009-2010), and local businesses in Monmouth and Ocean county (2006-2009)

- Accepted in juried art shows at the Art Alliance of Monmouth County, the Belmar Arts Council, and the Guild of Creative Arts (2004 – present)

#### **Languages**

- Bulgarian (native): spoken & written – fluent
- English: spoken & written – fluent
- German: spoken & written – proficient
- Russian: spoken & written – proficient