

Yadkin Arts Council 2024 Juried Exhibition Juror Bios



C. STEPHEN HURST

BIO

Director of Photography at Sawtooth School of Visual Arts since 2021. Previously Stephen was an instructor at the International Center for Photography in New York City and a professional photographer specializing in portraits and candid street photography. He is a self-taught painter turned photographer who emphasizes connection, anticipation, and intimacy through his process. Clients include M Creative Ad Agency, Disney Family Foundation, UNC Hospital System-Rockingham, Nike, Columbia University Business School, Arbor Acres to

name few. Stephen holds a B.F.A. in Cinema Studies from New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Learn more about his work at amancalledhurst.com and hurstweddings.com

EXPERIENCE

Director of Photography, Sawtooth School of Visual Arts—2021-Present Revived Program after department closed for 6 months due to covid. Manage, recruit, and train photographers to teach and inspire our student base. Classes created under my supervision range from 'On location flash photography Bootcamp' to 'Essential File Management for Photographers' to 'Understanding and Processing grief through Photography.' In house IT administrator for Apple computer install/support and Adobe Creative cloud implementation and training.

Photographer, www.AmancalledHurst.com – 2000-Present

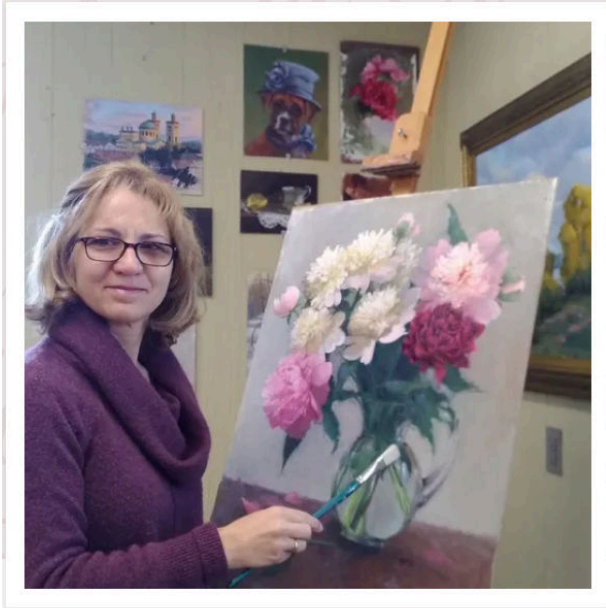
Corporate, Commercial, Street, and Documentary photographer focused on the candid, the expressive, and the presentational aspects of the human condition.

Photographer, HurstWeddings – 2004-2020

Candid Journalism Style photography of weddings from diverse cultures. Weddings photographed in Mexico, Napa Valley, Grosse Pointe Michigan, and the greater New York Area.

Adjunct Professor, International Center of Photography, 2006-2018

Created curriculum for weekend, 5 day intensive, and 3 month workshops focused on photo technical understanding and artistic development/nurturing. Recruited a diverse range of guest speakers to highlight and detail various aspects of the photo community. i.e. Photography Agency reps, Model Agency reps, Commercial and Fine Art Photographers



VIKTORIA K. MAJESTIC

Viktoria K. Majestic is a classically trained, Hungarian-American fine artist and art instructor, currently residing in North Carolina. She is also the Founder of Yadkin River School of Art.

Viktoria grew up in a small European town, where her interest in art and nature was formed at an early age. Her work has been largely influenced by the works of Zorn, Sorolla, Sargent, Levitan and a number of contemporary masters. She studied art both in Europe and in the United States, and her paintings can be found in collections throughout the world.

After graduating from college with a business degree, Viktoria established her own mural painting business, and worked as a mural and decorative artist for nearly a decade.

Unfortunately, an incapacitating back problem forced her to change course. She couldn't imagine giving up painting, so she decided to pursue an alternative art field. She had a deep interest in traditional oil painting, which led her to dedicate several years to formal training in classical oil painting.

She spent four years at the Ridgewood Art Institute, receiving instructions from John Phillip Osborne & Danielle Wexler master artists, and took portrait painting classes at the Art Students League of New York with renowned teachers like Leonid Gervits and Jordan Sokol.

Over the years, Viktoria has become a full time, professional artist and art instructor. In 2016, shortly after moving to East Bend, NC, Viktoria founded the Yadkin River School of Art. She teaches her students a painterly "alla prima" style, while also adhering to the parameters of her classical training.

She shares the knowledge of sensibly capturing light, sensations and atmosphere in their paintings. Most importantly, she passes on the joy of oil painting to each and every one of them.

Viktoria has won numerous awards with her work and has exhibited at places such as the prestigious Salmagundi Club and the National Arts Club, among many others.

Viktoria is an elected member of Oil Painters of America and formerly the American Artists Professional League, where she has served as a director on the national board for 5 years.



AUSTIN SHEPPARD

Austin Sheppard's mixed media sculptures and drawings are self-reflective and phenomenological in the sense that he begins from his personal experiences as an individual. But through the vehicle of the human figure, he also explores the shared human condition by expressing emotional experiences like anxiety, anguish, endurance and resilience. Austin earned his BA in Studio Art from University of North Carolina, Pembroke in 2007 and his MFA in Sculpture from East Carolina University in 2010. In 2018, he exhibited a new body of work at the Florence County Museum in Florence, South Carolina. Previously, he's been an Artist-in-Residence at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Franconia Sculpture Park, and Salem Art Works and has participated in International Sculpture Symposia in the UK, Germany, Finland, Costa Rica and Latvia. Austin is currently a faculty member at Coker University and lives in Duart, North Carolina.