

## Meet Rebecca Hamm | Artist, Educator & Director of Arts Programs



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### Hi Rebecca, what are you inspired by?

I am inspired by the constant creative process in nature and humankind, often to the point of great distraction. Although my collections of studies and writings on creativity continue to grow, the best exploration comes from quietly observing nature and working in the studio. Each person has a uniquely creative voice and vision to express in this world. Creative producers lean heavily into experimentation and the development of processes toward allowing flow to happen. When asked for creative advice, I love sharing these three things. First, the honoring of one's creativity and the making of work is hugely important. Value is to be found in the actions, the experiences, the reviewing and the moving on. Second, just showing up is the first step, be it the studio, or any "creative space" where you explore. Give your best to making this "space" an experimental laboratory which is free from critical review during the process. Sounds simple yet, for me, it is the profound challenge. Third, always find ways to give back generously.



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### Let's talk shop? Tell us more about your career, what can you share with our community?

It is wonderful to have this opportunity to reflect on and shoutout those who are my story. I've always loved art... I mean the full, fall-on-my-face, awestruck experience. I have early memories of how extraordinary it was to look at a painting, make a drawing, watch a ballet or listen closely to an album. My talented older sisters influenced my exploration of visual art, music and performance and my parents were always champions for me, in their loving, unique ways. After high school, I dove head first into the visual arts, music performance and undergrad studies. I was delighted to finally begin the full-time study of art and started painting with the mentorship of Barbara A. Thomason, and developed a deeper drawing practice with Stanley C. Wilson. I gratefully got a job doing graphic design and production with the generous and talented Gene Phipps whose mentorship is still invaluable to me. After the BA, I went directly on to Claremont Graduate University where Roland Reiss, Karl Benjamin, Kim Abeles, David