

Karen Patterson Brunke is an acrylic and mixed-media collage artist. She has exhibited her work in various group shows over the past 20 years, winning several awards. She is also a licensed art educator, teaching art in the classrooms for 13 years. Currently she teaches with the Right Brain Initiative and the Young Audiences Teaching Artist Program in Portland, OR.

She has a B.A. in Art History from the University of Tennessee and a M.A. in Art Education from the University of New Mexico. She taught art to K-5 students in Albuquerque, New Mexico for two years, in Nashville, Tennessee schools for ten years, and one year in the Vancouver, Washington school district. Karen also taught art at the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Museum of Art in Nashville, the Vanderbilt Sarratt Fine Art Studios in Nashville, and the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts in Portland, OR.

Before Karen went into teaching art, she worked in several art and design related fields that included: commercial lithograph printmaking, art gallery administration, interior design, and fabric design. She also had her own decorative painting business which she practiced for five years. As a child, she was greatly influenced by her mother, Theresa Patterson, who was an interior designer and mural painter. Theresa taught her about numerous art elements and nurtured Karen's interest in art and decorative design from an early age. Her interests in biology and science were sparked by her father, a physician, who always seemed to happily tolerate her constant questions about everything.