

Bio

I grew up in the low country of South Carolina; in Charleston, downtown, just north of Broad on Queen Street; around the corner from the Dock Street Theater and one door down from the Childrens' Theater. It was a "colorful" neighborhood especially on Saturday mornings. Shrimp peddlers and flower women selling their wares and yelling their calls; setts, costumes and dancing characters from one theater to the other preparing for the weekend matinee. And the artists with their paintings hung on the fence at St. Phillips Church. This is my backdrop – a sense of place, authentic and creative.

Weaving became an interest, then a hobby and then a full time livelihood for over 20 years and finally my tool for creating woven wall collages. The loom is a perfect medium for connecting, integrating, and getting to know each part of the whole. I work in painted warp technique, where the warp is painted with a fiber reactive dye and I weave using unconventional materials like copper wire, moss, and river birch sticks. Colorful, textural and sculptural landscapes that are then hand worked using crochet, embroidery, needle felting, found objects and sewing, speaking to the "hand" in fine artworks and "woman's work".

Painting developed out of the dye work I did for so many years. The optical blending process of textile color theory is an area of exploration for my painting. I love to build up layers of color, work with value and light, and weave that together using woven brushstrokes. Much like I do in my weavings, I finish each painting with marks reminiscent of embroidery and sewing stitches.

Currently, I work with Abstract Impressionist Landscape painting in oil, exploring our intuitive sense of place through the use of color, line and shape. Inspired by Wolfe Kahn, Mark Rothko, and Color Field painting, I am exploring the element of intersecting line and grid as evident in weaving. Both the paintings and the weavings work with object placement, as in still life, and a sense of place – an authentic and creative sense of place, perhaps a place of origin.

Kim Whitt

318 Cook Road

Moselle, MS 39459

H: (601) 584-8035

C: (601) 310-4168

kwhitt318@bellsouth.net

Summary of Qualifications:

- Experienced leadership and collaboration skills
- Focuses on strategy and innovation
- Connects and partners for common goals
- Originates ideas and concepts
- Values the voice and welfare of people, communities and culture/heritage
- Operates with idealistic outlook and practical application
- Engages in research and development
- Provides vision and overview
- Sensitive and creative
- Synthesizes and orchestrates multiple viewpoints
- Builds relationships diplomatically
- Public speaker, facilitator and writer
- Technologically competent and up to date

Work Experience

Mississippi Arts Commission, Arts Education Director

Jackson, Mississippi

January 2006 – April 2014

- Oversee and manage grants and services for all arts education/ arts in education programming / community arts programming / artists and craftsmen
- Manage and coordinate all aspects of program development, fiscal responsibilities, event planning, and application/partnering processes for constituents
- Oversee and manage programming, grants, evaluation and services for Teaching Artist and Visual Artist Rosters

- Coordinate in and out of school arts learning strategies for diverse learning communities
- Contract service providers, staff and interns for all programs
- Research and write grants for program advancement
- Present workshops, conduct site visits and coordinate advisory groups for strategic planning of programming
- Assist in public relations and website management supporting arts education programming and community arts learning
- Serve on national grants panel for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Chairman, *Arts Education Advisory Group (AEAG)* for National Assembly for State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and the NEA
- Serve on the *Arts Learning Advisory Team* for NASAA
- Consultant on arts education and community arts learning strategies

Laurel City School District, Arts Educator and Project Director

Laurel, Mississippi

August 1995 – December 2005

- Full time Creative Movement arts specialist grades K–6
- Full time Visual Art arts specialist grades pre K–6
- Co–Drama arts specialist grades 4–6
- Project Director for the Whole Schools Initiative 1997–2005
- Awarded Model Whole School for arts integration
- Choreographed, co–directed and managed multiple musical productions
- Coordinated and implemented community Cultural Arts Festivals
- Project Coordinator for Laurel School District’s Goals 2000 Grant:
Integrating the Arts and Technology into the Regular Curriculum

Independent Artist, Arts Educator and Consultant

Sweetwater Studios, INC. Moselle, Mississippi

1977–present

- Manage and implement all aspects of self–employed artist including business, marketing, promotion and production
- Produce commissioned/contracted work for multiple interior design consultants and individual homeowners – painting, weaving and mixed media
- Produce and execute art making workshops, various media and levels

Kim Whitt is a fiber artist and painter, holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and dance from The University of Southern Mississippi with graduate studies in Process Pedagogy, and is certified to teach K-12 in visual and performing arts. Kim taught creative movement, visual art and drama for 10 years, is a past Fellow member of the Mississippi Craftsman's Guild as an accomplished textile artist, and has taught weaving to all ages, beginner to advanced. She also served as the Arts Education Director for the Mississippi Arts Commission, overseeing visual artists, craftsmen and arts education programming for the state.

Kim has had a lifetime of involvement in the arts as a student, teacher, administrator, and artist in movement, fiber/textiles and painting.