

Interest Group Caucus on the Spiritual in Art Education (CSAE)



The mission of the *Caucus on the Spiritual in Art Education (CSAE)* is to study, advocate for, and/or advance the relationships between the spiritual and the visual arts; to examine the spiritual aspects of art in various cultures and in historical eras, including the use of spiritual icons; and to promote and advance spiritual concepts within art education pedagogy and research.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The struggle for each of us, individually and collectively, is to increase harmony and balance in our life, work, and communities. Harmony and balance are relevant issues for this current time. As I look to art, I am drawn to the concept and images of the mandala as a symbol for the restoration and contemplation of harmony and balance. Circling back to historical and contemporary images of mandalas during these challenging times is an affirming act. Creating mandalas can further allow us to ground ourselves in the creation of symbols, patterns, and images that have personal relevance and meaning. Thanks to Vicki for sharing her work!

FEATURED MEMBER: VICKI EVANS

The “featured member” is a new addition to the CSAE newsletter column with the aim of highlighting the visual artwork of a CSAE member. Each issue will feature a different CSAE member and their work. This month’s featured member is **Vicki**

Evans, who is also currently the CSAE Outreach Coordinator and a board member. Thanks to Vicki for sharing her work!

Tell us a little about yourself.

I’m Vicki Evans, and I live near Austin, Texas. I have been on the CSAE Board as Outreach Coordinator since 2019. I am an artist, art education consultant, and SoulCollage facilitator. I have taught art K–college and various workshops for more than 26 years in Texas, New Mexico, and Belize.

How do you define spirituality, and how do you integrate spiritual issues into your artwork and/or professional practice?

Spirituality is the interconnectedness between ourselves and the world around us and is embodied by the spark of creativity. My mandala series explores the concept of being in the center of our creative universe. The mandala becomes

the microcosm and the macrocosm. This contemplative artmaking practice is centering and calming. Mandalas as a meditation tool can help to reduce stress, promote relaxation, foster well-being, and inspire creativity. My featured work, titled *Illuminate*, offers a space of serenity and hope to uplift the energy during the current times. It was exhibited in the Wimberley (TX) Valley Art League virtual (juried) exhibit this spring.

What are some of the influences for your art?

My influences for creating mandalas include the work of Carl Jung, whom my father, Richard I. Evans, interviewed in 1957. Other influences include Tibetan sand-painting traditions of the mandala as a meditation tool. My mandala paintings are also inspired by nature, sacred geometry, meditation, and symbolism.

Would you like to share anything else about your artwork?

Creating mandalas for more than 25 years has been a positive transformational experience. To create this concentric geometric design, I start in the center, draw guidelines, freehand the design, and then paint it. The mandalas are 6 x 6 inches to 20 x 20 inches. The media include watercolor, pen, and acrylic.

For more information contact:

www.vickieivansart.com

www.instagram.com/vickieivansart or
[@vickieivansart](https://www.instagram.com/vickieivansart)

NAEA 2022

We look forward to receiving conference proposals/submissions for NAEA 2022 that can advance and challenge our understandings of the intersections of art, spirituality, and art education practices. We look forward to a robust 2022 program and discussions that can inform and inspire our practices.

MEMBERSHIP

CSAE appreciates your membership renewal and continued support. We look forward to welcoming new members. ■



Caption: Vicki Evans, *Illuminate*, 2020. Acrylic and pen on canvas, 20 x 20 in.

Sheri R. Klein

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