

# Illustrating the World


Making art and understanding

humanity through creative

expression and inspiration;

seeing and creating beauty\*

in a suffering world

 (\**Beauty* = harmony, balance, peace, compassion, all forms of health)



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## Illustrating the World

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According to Joseph Campbell, some people are specialists and some are generalists. I belong to the later group. At the age of four, I wanted to be a flamenco dancer, an actress, a pilot, *and* an artist. While this is no longer my career plan, I still have broad interests. I have a deep love of art and I wish to cultivate my artistic skills. However, I also want to be able to study my other passions because they will create a foundation that gives my art depth and authenticity. That foundation consists of an understanding of spiritual, cultural, and psychological development. I want to read great stories and understand what makes them great; I want to comprehend the historical and cultural contexts underlying art, literature and other creative expressions; I want to know about how human beings develop into creators and communicators and why they choose to express themselves through the arts; and I want exposure to the creative expressions of other cultures and traditions. I believe that the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies will help me to explore *and* refine my interests with fewer limitations and allow me to express them through the medium that is my truest voice - art. I also believe that the Johnston Center for Integrative studies will prepare me for my vocational goal of co-creating and working at a retreat center.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Beauty is its own excuse for being." As human beings, we need beauty. Beauty is an aesthetic value, but it is also a deeper quality. For me, it includes balance, harmony, grace, and care. My art reflects my value of beauty. Although

I live in a privileged, protected environment, I see missed opportunities for creating beauty. I want to seize those opportunities cultivate beauty . Even if people do not value beauty, they still unconsciously respond positively to it. In the University of Redlands meditation room, for example, the ceiling tiles, TV set, and fluorescent lights are all covered by soft, yellow drapes. This simple addition grants the room a peaceful, safe quality, and people who enter it find themselves naturally becoming quiet, respectful, relaxed, and rejuvenated. Bringing beauty to the world is a worthy cause to which I can contribute.

I love hearing stories and experiencing things that stir my imagination. I find artistic inspiration in spiritual traditions, literature, music, dance, and history. These are all ways in which human beings tell stories. When I encounter these stories, I feel the need to respond, to “say” something about them. And I “say” things through pictures. Illustration is my way of telling stories, of exploring and expressing feelings and ideas. In addition to facilitating my response to the outer world, my art allows me to express my own individual stories. I draw because it is fulfilling, makes me feel positive, and helps me process my experiences. The creative process is invaluable because it is how I give my life meaning. C.G. Jung understood this when he said, “Meaning makes a great many things enduring - perhaps everything.”

If I am accepted into the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, I can foresee planning a cross-cultural experience and senior project course involving my deep interest in art and my broad but related interests in spirituality, psychology, culture, history, anthropology, and literature. I would love to use the May Term of my junior year to begin my Senior Art Project. My plan would be to collect, analyze, and illustrate

folk tales of New Mexico. I would especially love to collect New Mexican folklore because of its cultural diversity. This project would provide me with a way to gain multicultural experience and use my art.

When I arrived at the University of Redlands, I thought that a degree in fine art would satisfy me. However, after taking classes in religious studies and psychology, I realized that that path did not have the breadth that I need and want in my education. That is why I am now applying to the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies.

For me, art is a healing and reflective tool as well as a narrative one. I draw for myself, but I believe my art can nourish others by mirroring their feelings and providing a sense of connection. Human beings have fundamental needs to belong and be understood. Art that makes the viewer say, "Yeah, I've felt like that too," satisfies those needs. A piece that touches deep emotions demonstrates that another person shares that experience. Creative expression can be a path to healing and I intend to be a part of a collaborative mountain retreat in the Pecos Mountains of New Mexico where I can practice my art and be a part of helping others to heal and foster their own creative expression. I believe that participating in the Johnston Center is the next step in my journey toward that goal.

I understand the importance of community and value my Grossmont family. Therefore, I would prefer to continue living in Grossmont Hall. However, I also wish to engage in and contribute to the Johnston community and believe that I can do that by participating in Community Dinners and leading or participating in community art projects and Johnston Seminars. If I am able, I would love to teach a Johnston Seminar in my senior year.

With so many interests, there is a temptation to narrow my focus in order to avoid being overwhelmed. I think that this would be unfortunate, boring, and a waste of an opportunity to learn about the connections between areas of study. I believe that the Johnston Center will give me a way to organize, balance, and manage my interests so that I will not be overwhelmed. In allowing me to design my own course of study, Johnston will help me develop my vision and hone my organizational skills. This will serve me well and help me lead a productive and happy life and thereby help others discover their own joy and potential.

## Chronological Listing of Courses

### **Fall 2010**

ART-132 02 2-D Design (4)  
FS-034 01 Magical Realms (4)  
MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)  
MATH-101 09 Finite Mathematics (4)  
MUS-099 01 Fundamentals of Music (4)  
MUSI-111 02 University Choir (0)

### **Spring 2011**

ART-250 01 Life Drawing (4)  
MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)  
MUSI-121 05 Class Piano (1)  
PSYC-100 01 Intro to Psychology (4)  
REL-101 01 Issues in Modern Religion (4)  
REL-125 03 World Religions (4)

### **Fall 2011**

ART-233 01 Painting (4)  
DANCE-122 01 Ballet (3)  
ENGL-233 01 Shakespeare in Adaptation (4)  
MUSI-111 01 University Choir (1)  
MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)  
SPAN-101 03 First Year Spanish (4)

### **Spring 2012**

MUSI-111 01 University Choir (1)  
MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)  
SPAN-101 First Year Spanish (4)  
ART 333 Intermediate Painting (4)  
REL- 292 Sacred Life-stories in Asian Religious Traditions (4)  
Johnston Seminar (?)

### **May Term 2012**

Independent Study-Retreat and Project (3)

### **Fall 2012**

MUSI-111 01 University Choir (1)  
MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)  
SOAN-102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (4)  
REL-293 Psychology and Religion (4)  
ENG-256 Native American Literature (4)  
BUS-131 Johnston Seminar (?)

### **Spring 2013**

MUSI-111 01 University Choir (1)  
MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)  
ART-150 Book Art (4)  
ART-433 Advanced Projects in Drawing and Painting (4)  
PSYCH-335 Developmental Psychology (4)  
REL-250 Compassion (4)

**May Term 2013**

Independent study-Folklore Project (3)

**Fall 2013**

MUSI-111 01 University Choir (1)

MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)

ENGL-215 Children's Literature (4)

ART-145 Introduction to Sculpture (4)

Principals of Marketing (4)

Johnston Seminar (?)

**Spring 2014**

MUSI-111 01 University Choir (1)

MAUP-108 02 Classical Voice (1)

ART-495 Senior Project: Art Studio (4)

THA-226 Costume Design (4)

BIOL-104 Introduction to Neuroscience (4)

Johnston Seminar (?)

**May Term 2014**

Teach Class (?)



## Course List by Concentration

### **The Arts**

2-D Design  
Life Drawing  
Painting  
Intermediate Painting  
Advanced Projects in Painting and Drawing  
Senior Project: Art Studio  
Book Art  
Introduction to Sculpture  
Costume Design  
Classical Voice  
University Choir  
Music Fundamentals  
Class Piano

### **Business**

Principals of Marketing

### **Foreign Language**

First Year Spanish

### **Humanities**

FS Magical Realms  
Cultural Anthropology  
Native American Literature

Children's Literature

**Math and Social Science**

Finite Mathematics

Intro to Psychology

Developmental Psychology

Introduction to Neuroscience

**Physical Education**

Ballet

**Religion**

Issues in Modern Religion

World Religions

Retreat Project

Compassion

Sacred Life-stories in Asian Religious Traditions