

## **Art 101 Winter 2026 (stand-alone dates or 4-week course)**

Instructor: Lena B. Ellis-Boatman, Artist-Owner of Rhizome Studio

Location: Ypsi Art Supply, 42 N. Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dates: Saturday mornings, 10:00am-12:00pm, on Jan 17, Jan 24, Feb 21, Feb 28

- **Jan 17:** Contour Line Drawing – supply kit available from YAS
- **Jan 24:** Basic Weaving – all supplies included
- **Feb 21:** Relief Monoprinting – \$4 supply fee (payable at sign-up or on day of class)
- **Feb 28:** Cut-Paper Collage – supply kit available from YAS

Cost: \$30-\$35 (sliding scale) per class day + supplies

Class Size: 8 participants maximum (minimum 3)

Ages: Adults and teens ages 14+ (younger people are welcome to sign up with an adult also taking the class)

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Accessibility: YAS can be accessed stair-free from the sidewalk. Please use the sign-up form to state other accessibility needs. Questions? Please email [lena@rhizomeartstudio.com](mailto:lena@rhizomeartstudio.com).

Safety Note: These classes involve using art supplies & sharp tools. Participants must sign a waiver.

## **Course Description:**

Across these four classes, you will learn hands-on art skills, general design principles, and some basic color theory. We'll do projects which will allow you to experiment with four different types of artmaking: cut-paper collage, monoprinting (relief printmaking), basic weaving, and contour line drawing.

Each project will utilize different skills, from observational drawing to paper-cutting, from black-and-white designs to working with color. As a class, we'll view and discuss everyone's work, giving you the opportunity to engage with and learn from your classmates.

Our projects make room for individualization and creative expression, which makes these classes suitable for people coming in at a variety of experience levels. You could be a beginner with zero art background or an intermediate-level artist who wants to learn some new skills or get back into making art!

## **Is This Course Really for Me?**

- You're welcome to sign up for these classes as a romantic date, make it a social activity with friends or loved ones – or show up solo and meet new people!
- Maybe you've been interested in taking art classes, but you're not sure which kind, and you want to get a little experience before you invest a bunch of time, energy, and money.
- Maybe you've had a few opportunities to try making art in the past, but you've never had the chance to try it again – until now.
- Do you already have some experience with art? You could approach this sampler course as an artistic "reboot" to jumpstart your creativity!

## **About Your Instructor:**

Hi, I'm Lena! My pronouns are xé/xem (they/them is fine, too). I'm a printmaker, artist, and art educator. I love teaching. I earned my BFA degree in printmaking and painting from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where I also studied art education. I later graduated from Michigan State University with my MFA degree in printmaking. You can check out my website: [www.rhizomeartstudio.com](http://www.rhizomeartstudio.com) or find me on Facebook: [www.fb.com/rhizome.studio](http://www.fb.com/rhizome.studio) and on Instagram @rhizome.artstudio

I'm an older millennial, white, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I believe compassion, open-hearted listening, a growth mindset, and fostering a sense of belonging are all essential in education and to being in community together. I'm autistic (self-diagnosed), and I've taught many neurodiverse college students. I'm kind of an outdoorsy geek – I love hiking and kayaking, but also science fiction and reading. I think of myself like this: Art is my career, teaching is my passion, and writing stories is my not-so-secret obsession.

I love teaching. I see our studio classroom as a creative community where we all work together and support each other. It's my job to help you succeed at learning new things about art. (If you want to know more about my professional experience as an educator, you can find that information at the bottom of this document.)

**Tools & Supplies:** Everything you need to complete each project will either be provided or included in the supply kit available to purchase from Ypsi Art Supply. For the monoprint class, a \$4 supply fee covers your materials (payable on the sign-up form or on the day of class).

### **Teens & Children:**

Teens ages 14-17 are welcome to take this course (parent/guardian must sign for them). Younger teens or tweens are welcome to sign up if accompanied by an adult also taking the course.

If your young person is under age 14, but they are mature for their age and feel comfortable taking a class where all the other students might be adults, we can discuss making an exception to the age policy.

### **How to Sign Up & Pay:**

When you're ready to sign up, you'll fill out a Google form, which you can find on my website or receive by emailing me at [lena@rhizomeartstudio.com](mailto:lena@rhizomeartstudio.com). A \$10 (per person, per class day) is due when you sign up. Once I receive your sign-up form, I'll email you an invoice / payment information.

If a class must be cancelled due to low enrollment (fewer than three participants), you'll receive a \$10 credit for a future Rhizome Studio class or course. (The \$10 deposit is non-refundable.) The deposit is applied to your total, and the balance is due on the day of class.

You may pay your deposit by credit or debit card, PayPal Direct, PayPal, or Venmo. You may pay your balance by any of the above or by cash or check made out to Rhizome Studio.

### **Sliding Scale:**

Sliding scale means "pay what you can" within the range given. For example, if you're doing well financially, you can choose to pay an amount in the middle or top end of the range. If you're

doing pretty okay, but paying more would create a hardship, then you should pay the minimum amount.

### **Reduced-Cost Scholarships:**

If you cannot afford the minimum amount for these classes, you may email me to inquire about options for reduced-cost scholarships, reduced-cost work exchange, or barter. Availability of these options is limited and depends upon how many people enroll, as well as other factors.

### **Class Capacity, Waitlist & People Joining Later:**

If three participants have signed up and paid their deposits by the sign-up deadline, the class will run, and additional participants may sign up until the class is full (8 participants). If the class fills, a waitlist will be available.

### **No-shows, Cancellations, and Refunds:**

If a would-be participant does not attend the class(es) for which they signed up, they forfeit their \$10 deposit. No refund will be issued for a no-show, even if they paid in full in advance.

If a would-be participant wishes to cancel and notifies the instructor no later than the day **before** the class(es) for which they signed up, they still forfeit their \$10 deposit. **However**, if they paid in full when they signed up, they will receive a refund of their total payment minus the \$10 deposit.

If the instructor must cancel a class date due to illness or emergency, a make-up date will be scheduled. If a student does not or cannot attend a class date, no refund will be issued.

### **Questions, Thoughts, or Concerns?**

Please email me at [lana@rhizomeartstudio.com](mailto:lana@rhizomeartstudio.com).

### **Lena's Professional Experience:**

Lena has been teaching college-level art courses since 2012 (at Michigan State University, Adrian College, Saginaw Valley State University, the College for Creative Studies, and Washtenaw Community College). As an AmeriCorps member, Lena worked with youth artists at the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo and the Toledo School for the Arts. Xé has taught youth art programs in drawing and printmaking at REACH Studio Art Center in Lansing and a teen program and a relief printmaking workshop for the Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum in East Lansing.

In addition to teaching xyr own Rhizome Studio classes, Lena currently teaches visual art courses at Washtenaw Community College, and xé periodically teaches art classes at Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti and other art organizations and businesses in the larger community.