

I have been involved in studio arts for as long as I can remember. When I was young, I would spend hours painting, drawing, gluing tree bark and acorns together to create faces, anything to express my creativity. I loved art class in elementary school. I remember taking classes with my art teacher outside of school, in the clay studio at her house, because the time in school just wasn't enough. As I got older, I continued to take art both inside and outside of school. I adored being able to create beautiful things with my own hands, and cherished the calming process of creating. Outside of school, I took classes at Seminary Arts, the Helen Day Art Center, and the Davis Center in Burlington, as well as in different local artists' studios. Once I entered high school, I made sure to always be enrolled in art class; sometimes I even took two at once. I've taken classes in silk screening, basketry, stained glass, en plein air painting, still life watercolor, pottery, "junk to funk", pencil sketching, photography, astro-photography, ceramics, pottery, leather working, wood working, jewelry making, wool felting and drawing. Throughout all of these classes, I have never lost my passion for art. In fact, with every class I have taken, art has become a more and more integral piece of me. I continually expand my horizons and learn new techniques and types of art, and with each new thing I learn, my attachment to the arts grows stronger.

I am currently taking Advanced Art Honors. My concentration is flowers. This year I have been exploring flowers using different mediums: oil paint, chalk pastel and pencil. I began by exploring the color, depth, and detail of poppies, and then moved to a few landscape pieces involving lupines. In all of my pieces I have explored the way composition, style, and color can influence feeling.

I plan to continue this artistic growth and exploration throughout college by focusing my studies on my two interests, studio art and science. I do not yet know exactly where these two paths will take me, but am hoping to find a perfect way to blend them to create a life where I can not only pursue art as my passion, but also as part of my career.

Anna Belongia
Mitch Siegel Award Recipient 2016