

STEWART J. THOMAS

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SKILLS

- Languages:** English, Persian (Farsi), Chinese (Mandarin)
- International Experience:** Birthplace: St. Andrews, Scotland
Citizenship: USA / UK
Resided in: Iran, India, USA
Travel: Europe, Mid East, N. Africa, Asia, US, Mexico
Tours: Every two years lead tour to S. India focusing on Art, Yoga, Health, Ecology
- Artist:** A lifelong commitment to seeing! Work includes extensive calligraphy, watercolour, unique artist books and printmaking; exploration of 3-D work in paper, bookbinding, sculpture and clay; site specific interactive installations; study of architecture and pattern, including collection of over 1000 South Indian kolam designs and study of Persian and Indian sacred space and gardens; and the adventure continues!
- Master Calligrapher:** over 30 years experience in Persian, Arabic, English & Chinese calligraphy; additional experience in Sanskrit, Kannada, Greek, Amharic, numerous other scripts
- Master Lithographer:** 20 years experience, including 16 as a professional edition printer; established my own lithography studio in 1994
- Printmaker:** Extensive experience in printmaking media: lithography; intaglio; screenprinting; relief; batik; silver-based, non-silver and digital photography; letterpress printing; giclee and experimentation with cutting edge digital approaches
- Bookbinder:** Specializing in non-adhesive bindings, book design, book structures
- Designer:** 25 years experience in graphic design; skills include book design, PR materials, logos, digital media, web design; teaching of design, book design, letterforms
- Educator:** 27 years experience, including teaching 1st and 2nd grade; dyslexia tutoring; ESOL; coordinator of innovative international education programs at University Museum, Univ. of Pennsylvania; college and university level printmaking and design; seminars and workshops for children, youth and adults; tutoring; mentoring; and apprenticeship opportunities
- Consultant:** Creativity, Organizational Development, Public Relations Strategy

CURRENT POSITIONS

Co-Director, Artists Alliance of North Florida (AAONF) a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization

Co-Director, Florida's Eden Plan, primary program of the AAONF

Gainesville, Florida, 2002 - present

Shaping the organizational development and strategies of the Florida's Eden Plan, a regional alliance to develop a sustainable creative economy in thirty counties of North Florida, preserving the natural resources and maintaining the authenticity of the region's diverse cultural heritage; including the Florida's Eden Information Resource online directory, Professional Forums for 13 sectors of the creative economy, Professional Development seminars, Small towns programs, and ARTT - Artists Reaching Through Teaching.

Palmstone Studio established 1994

The Studio continues the work I have done for over 25 years as a calligrapher, printmaker, artist and designer. Over the last ten years I have greatly expanded into the field of public relations and print and web-based design and communication, specializing in public relations strategies for cultural organizations and holistic health providers and institutions. Also provided are web hosting and print brokering services.

Educational Programs

Weekly art classes, bi-annual tour to South India, and numerous other offerings are detailed on following page.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL

Ashram India - Small Group Tour of South India focusing on ART, YOGA, HEALTH, ECOLOGY

Held every other year, next group July - August 2005
Complete information online at www.AshramIndia.com

This tour builds on our longtime experience living in and travelling to India, artistic and research collaborations, and introduces people to India through a holistic experience staying in rural areas and meeting the absolutely wonderful people who have been our friends for many years.

We welcome institutional collaborations which would make this tour even more meaningful. Especially appropriate would be specific learning objectives which tour participants could bring with them in conjunction with ongoing studies; or as continued education opportunities offered by museums, universities, or other institutions.

APPRENTICESHIPS & PROFESSIONAL MENTORING

Lithography

My own artistic and professional training was received most effectively through professional apprenticeships. I am willing to work with one individual at a time, in the lithography studio. This is an exceptional opportunity for the right person to learn all the skills involved in edition quality stone lithography printing. My last apprentice worked with me for 2 years and went on to art school and received his MFA. Position is unpaid, but provides full access to the studio in exchange for work as a printer's assistant.

WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, AND SEMINARS OFFERED

ART TECHNIQUES

Basic Printmaking

Hands on introduction to the various ways to make a print: stencil, transfer, rubbing, etc. Use of simple materials and suitable for all ages. Culminates in how to make a flat print of a 3-D object, in this case the sunbleached shell of a turtle!

Ten book structures for artists and educators: no glue, no stitching!

Hands on workshop on how to create ten books that require only paper, folding and cutting! These are ideal little packages for artistic content without getting trapped in technical bookbinding problems. Every teacher and artist should know how to make these!

How to make new and exciting book structures

Hands on exploration of the three dimensional qualities of books. We will explore multiple ways to fold, construct and stitch books together; become familiar with the sculptural qualities of book structures; and dare to create books you've never seen before!

Oriental brush techniques

Demonstration of the unique ways in which oriental painting utilizes the brush. Topics include: the interplay of water and ink; loading the brush with color; wet and dry effects; the paper as the seismograph of your feelings, and more!

Chine colle: the Oriental collage technique

Originally developed for the creation of scroll paintings, this collage technique has wonderful applications for contemporary art. Layer materials, include plants and objects, introduce translucent and opaque sections, and integrate drawing, painting and printmaking.

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WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, AND SEMINARS OFFERED (continued)

RESOURCES FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE

Free and Effective Web Marketing for Creative Individuals and Small Businesses

Don't shell out hundreds or thousands of dollars for temporary or ineffective marketing strategies. Seasoned webmaster shows you how you can bring traffic and sales to your web page.

Strategies for keeping creativity alive

Every creative person has experienced the fear of the creative dry spell. Why does creativity come in periods of intense inspiration? What do we do when it doesn't? Here are some strategies for allowing creativity to maintain its natural rhythms while always remaining a vital part of life.

WHERE WE LIVE; HOW WE LIVE

Florida's Eden: how creativity can save the Florida we all love

The natural beauty of North Florida is a fragile treasure. Human pressures are bringing great changes to our part of the world. How can we make sure that the quality of life, the animals, plants and waterways of this subtropical Eden do not give way to more miles of concrete? Stewart Thomas, co-director of the Florida's Eden plan discusses the exciting possibility that creativity is the answer to having both prosperity and preservation for North Florida.

The changing power of the internet: local and global

The internet continues to transform the way we shop, collect information, and know the world. Fascinating changes are occurring in this new medium. Even as the internet has brought about greater trade, globalization and centralization, the technologies are bringing massive reconfigurations that promise ecological approaches and local solutions to global problems.

Re-seeing the world: hidden patterns in geography that can reshape human lifestyles

The image of the globe from outer space reveals a green and blue gem. Paddling down a Florida river can equally change our perceptions. Maps that show paved roads and highways show a very different world from those that show greenways and trails. Explore how the basic geography of place--watersheds, coastlines, floodplains, grasslands, and uplands--can give profound new insights into how humans can inhabit the world in harmonious fashion.

SACRED SPACES

The Gardens of the Middle East

The garden is one of the most ancient and treasured places in Middle Eastern culture: from the garden of Eden to the metaphorical gardens of poetry. Understand the rich imagery of the garden in art and literature and its societal and spiritual significance.

The spirit of sacred architecture: India and Iran

The sacred spaces of Iran are about light, those of India about the womb. The Taj Mahal, was designed by a Persian architect but built in India. The building floats on light when viewed from outside, but step inside and you are within the primordial cave of India.

The cosmic meaning of Pattern: India, Iran, Ireland, Africa, and beyond

Celtic knotwork, Kinte cloth, Persian carpets, and Mandalas all weave cosmic meanings into everyday materials. Learn how to create repeating patterns, knotwork designs, radiating designs, and more. Tap into the fascinating history of designs as they have traversed the globe and begin to understand how they function as a language of their own.

Rongoli, Kolam, Yantra, and Mandala

Explore the various types of geometric patterns of India, from the designs made daily by women at the entry to their homes, to the esoteric designs inscribed on copper and stone. This ancient vocabulary continues to speak to hundreds of millions of people worldwide and is a doorway to understanding much of Indian culture and spirituality.

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EDUCATION

BFA, Philadelphia College of Art (University of the Arts): Printmaking 1987
BA, Haverford College: History, Chinese Language and History 1981
High School Diploma, Community School, Tehran, Iran 1977

APPRENTICESHIPS

Lithography apprentice to Tamarind Master Printer, Chen Lok Lee, Philadelphia 1986-1991
Chinese painting and calligraphy study under Chen Lok Lee and Yao You-xin 1984-1990
Bookbinding study under Master Binders Don and Pam Rash 1981-1983

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Indian School of Art for Peace, Karnataka, India 1996
Atheetha Vidyalyaya, Tamil Nadu, India 1992

AWARDS

New Forms Florida, NEA regional grant 1993-1994
American Color Print Society 1987
T.J. Murphy Award for Achievements in Offset Lithography 1987
University of the Arts Library Purchase Award 1986

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Southern Graphics Council
Member, Sweetwater Print Cooperative, Gainesville

BOARDS

Current Founding Board Member, Artists Alliance of North Florida (AAONF) 2002 - present
Board Member, Friends of Morning Meadow Pre-School, Gainesville, FL 2004 - present
Past Founding Board Member, Vox Populi Artists Cooperative, Philadelphia 1988-1991
Board Member, Delaware Valley Bookworkers Association 1983-1984

PAST POSITIONS

Distinguished Visitors Office, Haverford College

Haverford, PA, 1979 - 1981. Met a great number of people: at the time I had no idea who they were or that many were well known and famous! Great experience, wonderful boss.

Gallery Assistant, Barnes Foundation Museum

Merion, PA, 1981. A terrible job at a truly eccentric institution; has given me more as a conversation piece than any other endeavour! The Barnes is a gem of impressionist art, however, and I stayed until I'd visually memorized every painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Assistant, Friends Peace Committee

Philadelphia Monthly Meeting Society of Friends (Quakers), 1981 - 1982
Prepared educational materials, facilitated community meetings, provided instruction in group process, non-violence training, and consensus procedures.

Assistant Manager, Nyala Restaurant

Philadelphia, 1984-1987. Co-owned and managed 65 seat Ethiopian cuisine restaurant in Rittenhouse Square district. Restaurant received national acclaim, and drove me to art school! Duties included overall management, bookkeeping and accounts, payroll, financial planning, advertising, purchasing, coordination of events catering.

Assistant Coordinator, International Classroom Program, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, 1982-1984

- planned and coordinated innovative international education programming for school groups of all ages: selection, training and oversight of over 200 volunteers
- successful grant research and proposals written for three year program funding
- assisted in establishing 'World Ancient and Modern' education program
- coordinated College and University speakers bureau
- wrote and designed International Classroom brochures
- managed volunteer honoraria, staff payroll and all program accounts payable

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PAST POSITIONS (continued)

Assistant Professor, Drexel University

Nesbitt College of Design Arts, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 1987-1991

Instructed sophomore design majors in letterforms, calligraphy, layout, design, basic book design, introduction to typography.

Curator of exhibition 'Calligraphy Explorations', Nesbitt College of Design Arts Gallery, 1990

Friendship Press

New York, 1992. Short stint as a temporary worker at a small New York Publishing House -- good insight into the inner workings of the publishing industry--hint: never send unsolicited illustrations.

ART EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Recent Photographs, Terranova, Gainesville 2004

What is Hidden, Who am I? installation, Gainesville, FL 1994

Atheetha Vidyalyaya, Tamil Nadu, India (permanent collection) 1992

Senior Show, Philadelphia College of Art 1987

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected)

Art in City Hall, 2005

Sweetwater Print Cooperative, 2004, 2003

Still Life in G, Gainesville 2004

Thomas Center, Gainesville 2004

More Pressing Matters, J. Wayne Reitz Union, University of Florida 2000

Art at the Airport, Gainesville, FL scheduled for March 2000

Traditional Values, Santa Fe Gallery, Gainesville 1998

Survivors' Art Exhibit, University of Florida, Gainesville 1998

Sweetwater Print Cooperative, Gainesville 1997

Collaborations, Kamin Gallery, Van Pelt Dietrich Library, University of Pennsylvania 1995

Hyperdrome, University of Florida, Gainesville 1994

Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, India (permanent collection) 1991

Art at the Armory, Philadelphia, PA 1990

Vox Populi Gallery, Philadelphia 1990

Camden County Cultural Heritage Commission, NJ 1989

West Looks East, McCabe Library, Swarthmore College, PA 1989

Book Design: Practical & Provocative, AIGA/Painted Bride, Philadelphia 1988

The Print Club, Philadelphia 1987

University of the Arts Library (permanent collection) 1986

SUNY at Purchase, NY 1986

Prints, Prints, West Chester University, PA 1986

Paper Works, Wayne Art Center, PA 1986

Non-Silver at PCA, Philadelphia College of Art 1985

Book Arts in the Delaware Valley, Swarthmore College 1982

COMMISSIONS

IWork commissioned for innumerable books, magazines, articles, posters, etc.