

INSTRUCTORS



Ricardo Aberle, a native of El Salvador, followed in his father's footsteps as a watercolor artist. He became seriously involved with the medium after moving to Florida as a young adult. As the Grounds Supervisor at Fairchild, he has endless opportunities to capture his subjects in photographs, and spends many hours in his home studio on weekends completing his masterpieces. He is a recipient of many awards and spent a month at Monet's Garden in Giverny combining both his love of horticulture and his passion for painting.

Dan Bondroff has a B.S. in Art/Visual Communication from Towson University. Working with pastels, he enjoys capturing those often overlooked and fleeting moments that occur in the natural world. He also looks forward to guiding his students as they make their own discoveries.

Frances Brown is a professionally trained Pastry Chef and former owner of The Pineapple Blossom Tea Room in Miami's Upper East Side. She has worked in South Florida for over 15 years in top restaurants and hotels as both a Pastry Chef and Chef. Strongly committed to eating local and seasonal, she strives to keep her delights fresh, flavorful, fun and balanced.

Christopher Bulgarin, a graduate of Johnson and Wales, is well-versed in the workings of the Florida cuisine community. Chef and owner of Delicious Catering, he has worked with many local chefs, taught classes and made guest appearances on television.

Helen Burgos studied in England and the U.S. She holds an M.F.A. from FIU, where she is an adjunct professor and teaches drawing and painting. She has been teaching her popular drawing and oils classes at Fairchild for over ten years.

Richard J. Campbell, Ph.D. is the Senior Vice President of Global Operations for Ciruli Brothers, LLC. Dr. Campbell leads the global mango initiative for Ciruli Brothers and directs the development of other fruit and vegetable crops for this highly diversified American fruit company. He is the former Director of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and a native of South Florida with deep experience in tropical fruits, he draws on his years of travel experience collecting and researching tropical fruit in Asia, Africa and the Americas to provide the latest information and innovation on horticultural crops. He has authored hundreds of scientific and popular articles on fruit culture in the last three decades, as well as, dozens of chapters and three self-published books. He is a staff writer for Edible South Florida magazine, prolific lecturer on horticulture at the local and international level and a South Florida gardener and mango farmer.

Carlos Causo is a citizen of the world, globetrotter, photographer, explorer and sometimes writer. He has a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from Florida International University and an M.F.A. degree in Photography, Video and Related Media from the School of Visual Arts. He is now an adjunct lecturer at FIU and Fairchild welcomes him as a photography instructor.

Carolyne Coppolo is the owner of the Redland Herb Farm, where she has been a commercial herb grower since 1997. She has taught many organic herb gardening workshops in the community.

Perri Cox is a painter and printmaker with a lifelong passion for creating art and for sharing her skills with students of all ages. She holds a B.F.A. in printmaking and a M.S. in art education from FIU. Her love for tropical gardens is reflected in her art. Helping her students discover their inner artist is her greatest reward.

Shirley Drevich holds a B.F.A. from Tulane University in Ceramics with a minor in Photography. She did post graduate work in Jewelry at Boston University's Program in Artisanry. Over the last few years she has been engaged in iPhoneography (photography and processing exclusively on an IOS device). She has exhibited her images in several shows in New York City, Santa Monica, CA, Berkely, CA, Miami, FL, and in Naples, Italy.

Urszula Dudek is a Polish born artist with a degree in fine arts. She enjoys continuous experimentation of ideas and evolution of many artistic genres with prime focus on photo-realistic subject element paintings mostly of her own gardenscape. By intertwining her love for nature, talent of composition and mastery in the art, Urszula's paintings are a constant display of attention to detail, vibrant colorization and ubiquitous passion for the canvas. She is also a master of painting/dyeing of silk scarves using numerous techniques. One of her latest inspirations came from Lynda Wellens; silk painting that stirred her to the process called Shibori. After experimenting with the technique, Urszula's fascination for the art began her inspiration to share this technique with fellow artists looking learn the process. See www.UrszulaDudek.FineArtAmerica.com for more of her artwork.

Giselle Fairbank was born and raised on the island of Puerto Rico but her passion for cooking was born in Paris. Upon returning to the U. S., she received her degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson and Wales University. She has since worked in all areas of the restaurant business including teaching at Miami Dade Culinary Academy.

Wendy Fleming Saltzburg is the founder of Wendy's Landscape and Design LLC. She has taught landscape design at Miami Dade College, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and has been a long time speaker for the Coral Gables Farmers Market. Her love of creating butterfly gardens has been shared with garden clubs, schools and private individuals for more than three decades.

Carlos Gallostra is a representational artist whose practice has been shaped under numerous celebrated mentors in the U.S. and Italy. He holds a B.F.A. from New World School of the Arts of Miami and an M.F.A. and an M.S. from the Pratt Institute of New York. He taught at New World over the past ten years and takes great joy in imparting ideas, approaches and helping his students find their voices in the arts.

Dottie Greene is a signature member of both the Florida and National Watercolor Societies. Her love for the natural world began at an early age and is a central theme in her art. She has taught people of all ages and Fairchild is proud to have her as an instructor for the past 15 years.

Michael Heckart is the owner of Wicked Mike's, a small local business dealing in rare edible and medicinal plants. A lifelong resident of South Florida, he has been growing food crops in this climate for over thirty years. His collection includes plants from every continent but Antarctica, including rare tropical fruits and over 1,600 pepper varieties.

Peter Kouchalakos is Past President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida and the Pan American Orchid Society, a Certified Horticultural Professional with the Florida Nursery Growers Association and a Coral Gables native. Peter has been growing bromeliads for over 20 years.

Pedro Lastra realized his passion for photography in high school and later served as Brown University's yearbook photo editor. After leaving a successful 12-year international corporate career, he is currently pursuing his deferred vocation as a photographer, digital photo printer and digital darkroom expert. A world traveler, his award-winning photographs have appeared on numerous magazine covers.

Noris Ledesma Ph.D. is the Curator of Tropical Fruit and Outreach Specialist for the Tropical Fruit Program at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Noris brings a tropical fruit passion and flare to her programs derived from years of first-hand experience in her native country of Colombia. Her travels around the world have enhanced her knowledge and appreciation for tropical fruit. She is a plant collector and co-author of several books and numerous scientific publications and popular articles; *For the Love of Mangos-India*, (2008), *A Quick Guide of Mangos* (2005), *The Exotic Jackfruit: Growing the World's Largest Fruit* (2003); and *Mangos: A Guide to Mangos in Florida* (1992).

Hillary Parker is a naturalist and international award winning botanical watercolor artist with paintings exhibited and sold worldwide. She has enjoyed a dual career of teaching and painting for over 25 years and works full time to keep up with the demands of private and public commissions, juried exhibitions, lectures, international workshops, private art instruction and solo and group shows with galleries that represent her. See www.hillaryparkerwatercolors.com for more information.

Guillermo Salazar is a professional landscape designer and horticulturist with many years of experience in the South Florida landscape industry. His experience in the field includes adjunct faculty for Miami Dade College Landscape Technology program, ISA arborist and a Certified Landscape Inspector. He has been collecting orchid species since childhood and is currently studying to become a judge for the American Orchid Society.

Carlos Somoza is passionate about the craft and design of elegant gardens. After practicing landscape architecture in Washington, D.C. for over a decade, he returned to his native South Florida and opened a private design studio specializing in the design of contemporary subtropical gardens. Carlos is an avid photographer and frequently visits private estates and specialty nurseries for design inspiration and photographic opportunities. He currently serves as a private consultant to his own clientele and numerous landscape contractors and architects in Miami.

Sandra Schultz Ph.D., Professor Emeritus Miami Dade College, past president of Orchid Society of Coral Gables and South Florida Orchid Society, and native Miamian has grown and exhibited orchids for more than 30 years

Johnson Teh, executive chef and owner of LAN Pan-Asian Café and Yuga Restaurant in Coral Gables, specializes in East Asian cuisine. Chef Teh has over 25 years of culinary experience and his style and personality hold a prominent place in the local restaurant scene.

Donna Torres has an M.F.A. from FIU and is an accomplished artist and illustrator. Her artworks have been exhibited widely in the US and abroad. She draws on her extensive travels for inspiration. Mrs. Torres has been teaching botanical art at Fairchild for over 15 years.

MaiYap is an accomplished self-taught artist celebrated for her realistic close-up flowers, her palette-knife Florida landscapes and her environmental abstracts. She holds a B.A. in Advertising and Graphic Design from the University of Georgia. She is the founder of Palette Knife Artists of Miami. For 25 years her work has been collected, both corporate and privately around the world. Please see www.maiyap.com for more information.

Marcelle Zanetti has a B.S. in Painting and Art Education from Southern Connecticut State University and attended the University of Massachusetts. Represented by galleries nationwide during the past 25 years, her paintings are in permanent museums and corporate and private collections. See www.marcellezanetti.com for more information.