



## Jolene's Story

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Last January, I moved from Colorado Springs to Tucson with my fiancé. Since then, The Drawing Studio has helped me discover a sense of belonging in this new city.

I've always been interested in bringing the theatrical to art. I have a background in drawing and scientific illustration, and I was a puppeteer right out of college. Today, I am a leather mask maker.

But I'm also focused on growth and improvement as an artist. We all have our weaknesses. I've named The Drawing Studio "the art gym" in my phone because it's where I go to exercise my ability to see and practice artistic meditation. To me, it is a workout, just like running up hills to prepare for an obstacle race.

Right away, I noticed that The Drawing Studio smelled like my college art studios. It evoked a strong sense of place and home. I love that it truly promotes rigorous thinking and creativity. The [faculty members](#) demonstrate a deep knowledge of painting, drawing, and printmaking, and there's a printing press!

I first began attending [Open Studio](#) to work on life drawing. Then I took [Nancy Chilton's](#) project-to-practice workshop because that is what we do as artists: propose a body of work, then generate a practice to build that body.

I appreciate that Nancy asked what we wanted to get out of the class. She recommended artists for me to check out that I had never considered before - artists who combine fine art with stop motion animation, two of my greatest passions. My brain just exploded!

**I feel engaged with artmaking again and I cannot wait to create more work.**

I don't know if I'll ever be comfortable pulling up roots and moving to a new city. But how wonderful that Tucson has The Drawing Studio to welcome people like me.

**I want to spend as much time here as I can, and I hope you'll join me!**

**Jolene Schafer**  
Member, The Drawing Studio

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