



AMANDA THOMPSON  
Tanner Hess adds details to his fish at Brush & Palette summer camp.

**SCHOOL & FAMILY**

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**W**hile the Hess twins don't agree on everything, "Tanner likes to ride bikes and I like to ride scooters," says Peyton, he reveals that there is one interest they share, "we both like art."

Enrolled in summer camp at the Brush & Palette Studio, these 6-year-old brothers are taking full advantage of the art offerings. They've worked with a variety of materials and completed several different projects. "We made a 3D cactus coming out of a paper. 3D means it's not flat," explains Tanner. Peyton enjoyed making a clay fish and adding unique details. "It's an angler fish, they have a light on their head. I'm going to name my fish Peyton Jr."

Brush & Palette owner Tyler Cintron encourages her campers to express their individuality and she is careful to point out that "art is not just about the finished product although producing something beautiful or useful is wonderful. It is the process that is equally important, from the idea through its execution."

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Brush & Palette and Cintron's 11th summer as its owner. She has held true to the founding vision of providing high quality art instruction to the community and she believes that exposing children to art "broadens their horizons." She particularly enjoys "introducing young artists to stylistic terms they've never heard before and then engaging them in discussions about the meaning of impressionism or abstraction. Their descriptions are so magical."

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**KIDS  
BRUSH UP  
ON ART AT  
SUMMER CAMP**

making a  
**color  
splash**

# Art

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That magic is infused throughout the studio and it keeps students like Katrin Fredrickson coming back, year after year. Katrin has been a camper at Brush & Palette since she was 6 years old and she will be a freshman at Leon high school in the fall. For the past two years, she has volunteered as a camp counselor and, while she's gained confidence and technical proficiency at Brush & Palette, she has developed a deeper perspective as well.

"You can look at two paintings of the exact same thing but they look totally different because the two people who made them think differently. Sometimes, we don't realize that people see things differently. We have different opinions and sometimes, it's like OK, maybe I should change my perspective a little bit to look at how another person might think of it. So I'm not only thinking about my view, but getting different views from everyone."

Those are the kinds of lessons that students come away with and sometimes they're able to pass them along to the next generation of campers as volunteer counselors or even as an art instructor. Like Katrin, Olivia Samper started attending Brush & Palette summer camps at age 6 and went on to volunteer as a counselor. Samper is now 22 and works as a Brush & Palette teacher.

"I remember doing art and it had a huge effect on me when I was a kid so it's cool to be able to affect kids in the same way. Sometimes when they do stuff, it shoots a memory in my head and I'm like, whoa, I did that too when I was a kid." Samper knows that by providing an artistic foundation, she's introducing the potential for life-long creative exploration. "They're so young and it's so fresh and I get this hope that they're going to keep doing it."

Nine-year-old Gracie Paramore is a new camper this year and she has been busy. "I've enjoyed making an ostrich, a frog, and tie dye. I used all the colors for the tie dye." Engrossed in a mixed-media project, she explained that "making small details" is what sets each person's artwork apart. "I love having different colors and all the different materials. You can do almost anything with art, you can do different designs and whatever you're thinking of, you can just put it out on paper. I just love to draw and it makes me focused and happy."



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Campers creating mixed-media artworks.

Katrin remembers feeling that same excitement as a camper and, as a counselor, she sees that the shared enthusiasm for art fosters strong relationships at Brush & Palette. "They build a connection with these students and I have felt that. I think it's a really good place to come if you're looking for a connection with your teachers and you really want to have fun because they care so much about the students having fun but learning at the same time. It's important to me because I've really built a family here."

*Amanda Karioth Thompson is the Education and Exhibitions Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture ([www.tallahasseearts.org](http://www.tallahasseearts.org)).*