



# **Sarah Batson**, Master

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Coudersport High School, PA.

## **Why I Chose Aristotle Dunlavey and Brooke Batson**

My decision to choose Aristotle and Brooke was easy. Both of these students have not only demonstrated great skill and interest in art (in art classes and outside of school), but also in their willingness to share their artistic skills with others by lending a hand when needed. They strive to learn and grow as artists, being willing to explore new mediums and ideas. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and develop into very accomplished artists. Although they are very different in personality and interests, art-making is their passion and it shows. I am so proud of what each of them has accomplished - and to know that they will continue to make art for the rest of their lives makes any art teacher happy!

## **Artist Statement**

As an art teacher, I am used to devoting my time and energy to helping my students develop their art, and often find my own artistic needs are neglected. I know I am not the only one who struggles with this. After taking an alla prima painting class a couple of summers ago, I was inspired to be sure to make time each summer to get away for several days and do some art-making on my own. This past summer I stayed in a scenic area of Canada and continued to work on my alla prima painting skills while also reconnecting with the art maker inside of me. These little “getaways” have been such an important time for me to explore and develop my passions and interests. I may not end up with a masterpiece when all is said and done, but being able to get back to one of my greatest joys of making art makes it all worthwhile.