

# finding art in unlikely places

For student Mara Spitzer art isn't just fun, it's a way of life

Mary Ferguson  
Clackamas Print

For most, art class is a guaranteed 'A' and an easy way to pick up credits. For some, however, it is not merely fun—it is necessity, it is life. This is the case for Mara Spitzer, one of the true blues here at Clackamas.

Art has been part of my life since before kindergarten. They told me I was 'good with color' on my report card," Spitzer laughs, remembering the first time she realized that art was her calling. After mastering the crayon, she moved on to oils at the age of 10 and hasn't slowed down since.

Spitzer is now working on her MFA and plans to become an art teacher. She wants to teach on all forms of art: painting, sculpture, drawing, photography and design. She is so passionate in her education she has begun to pick a favorite medium, though sculptural ceramics is currently the one she spends the most time on. "I haven't really found my niche yet. I don't want to label myself because it will limit my options in the art field. I know that once I get my bachelor's I'll have a better idea of what I want to focus."

Before her career at Clackamas, she expressed her creativity in ways other than art.

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Mara Spitzer  
Art Student

She has two cakes as an artist. She bakes the cakes for the families of white ink half-toy impres-works of art. She is proud to be more extensive

of what I've made], such as a cake by Frank Lloyd Wright and a cake of a cat and forty kit-



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Art student Mara Spitzer sculpts a head study of Art Instructor Rick True. Spitzer enjoys working with a variety of mediums, although she currently finds herself devoting the majority of her time to sculptural ceramics.

Spitzer works on a full sheet for a woman's 40th birthday."

Spitzer finds inspiration in everything from microscopic organisms to astronomy.

"In Dave Andersen's class, we were looking at little bugs and leaves and spiders under microscopes. It was really inspirational. Things under a

microscope are so awe inspiring. I know that being outside, being in the woods, fishing—

that centers me."

But it's not only art in nature that drives Spitzer to succeed. Something as simple as learning also drives her to move forward in her career.

"When I got to the art department, it was more—give me more. I wanted to learn everything. I don't want to limit myself because learning is keeping me creative."

Her ultimate goal is to teach art, probably at a middle school. She also wants to spend as much time as possible with her daughter, who is having Spitzer's first granddaughter in January.

For most of the students here, art is a pastime, a way to keep from doing work. For Mara Spitzer, art is the work, but it's the work she loves.



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As a cake artist and soon-to-be grandmother, student Mara Spitzer is looking forward to a career as an art teacher when she is finished with school.

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