ART WITHOUT LIMITS MISSION: Providing talented emerging artists of any disciplines, the skills and guidance they need to thrive in a vibrant art community. We offer five programs to achieve our mission.

MENTORSHIPS Highly talented artists, in all art disciplines, are paired with professionals for a year-long one-on-one mentorship, at no charge.

ART CAREER DAY CONFERENCE A free annual full day event. Over 50 professional artists donate their time, knowledge, and guidance for 13-25 year old aspiring artists, with presentations, roundtable discussions, performances and lunch.

BIZARTS WORKSHOPS Monthly workshops with business and art professionals providing the knowledge and expertise needed to develop a thriving career in the arts.

GALLERY EVENTS Showcasing the work of Emerging Artists in our AWoL Mentorship Program.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP Providing artists and art groups the opportunity to apply for grants and receive tax deductible donations for their projects utilizing AWoL’s nonprofit status.

AWoL’s philosophy is that artistic insight, imagination, and creativity are the seeds for a better world, and Giving Begets Giving. While we do not charge for mentorships and all mentors volunteer, there is an exchange involved. It is giving! Emerging Artists give back to their mentor, AWoL, and the next generation. With proper training and guidance, talented artists can flourish in their careers and strengthen our communities. To earn a living, create, do what one loves is the goal. Your gift or contribution, is a building block in attaining that goal.

Jodi McLeod
Co Director

Julie Netz
Executive Director
On my third birthday, I finished my first dance class knowing I was going to be a dancer! It was the beginning of a journey of multitudinous art, dance, music and theater classes, eventually taking me to Juilliard School of Dance on scholarship to study with greats like Martha Graham, Jose Limon and Anthony Tudor. I danced off Broadway, USO in Europe, toured with Yul Brynner in “King and I,” and landed the biggie on Broadway, the original company of “West Side Story.” I taught dance and negotiated contracts for Actors Equity with Summer Stock owners.

In 1979, I opened Dance Warehouse, in Santa Barbara, a studio with 20 teachers, 4 studios, guest classes and performances that became the hub of dance in Santa Barbara. I worked with Santa Barbara Dance Alliance for 20 years and became its Executive Director for the next 10 years.

One day, I glanced at my picture of Jackie Rotman leaping in the air. My mentorship had guided her to establish her own program, Everybody Dance Now! It was the best thing I had ever done... nurturing Jackie’s talent to help her succeed. I knew mentoring was what I just had to do!

I gathered 25 arts leaders and we brainstormed. Yes, we wanted to nurture the highly talented with the help of trained and dedicated artists. We wanted artists to blossom! Art Without Limits was born in 2009.

I have never been happier in my life. It is so rewarding to watch talent flourish, produce wonderful art and see people give to each other! I would like to see this program expand to many cities. We all need to foster an explosion in the ARTS!
HOW IT BEGAN

When Jackie Rotman was 14, she had a dream about creating a dance outreach program for underserved youth. Others had told her she was too young to make it happen, but she was determined, and contacted Julie McLeod for help. Julie said, “Let’s go, Jackie!” With Julie’s mentorship and guidance, Jackie created Everybody Dance Now!, an after-school program where teens teach free dance classes to Santa Barbara youth, instilling self-esteem and encouraging healthy lifestyles. As the program grew, Jackie enlisted and mentored other teens that would serve as dance leaders. Today EDN! has their own nonprofit status and offers more than 50 classes per week in 5 cities and has served more than 10,000 youth across the nation. EDN! has been featured on MTV’s America’s Best Dance Crew. Jackie was highlighted in Glamour’s article, “Top 10 College Women,” and has lectured on TEDX Talks. She is a scholarship graduate of Stanford University, and has been an Executive Director of SPARK, the nation’s largest young professionals’ network. She is currently working on her masters in Business Administration in a combined program that Harvard Business School and Stanford created for her.

Today Jackie and Julie remain great friends: “We call each other for advice, or a shoulder to cry on. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing talented young people develop their creativity, live their dreams, and help others to do the same. Mentorship is truly exponential.”

“Julie has been a phenomenal mentor who has inspired my life in so many ways. She responded to a ‘PS’ line in an email about creating a dance program for under-served youth. Julie’s guidance on every aspect of the organization from grant writing to budget creation has contributed so much to its success.”

~Julie McLeod

~Jackie Rotman
ELITE HENENSON was born in kibbutz Gesher in Israel. After traveling in South America for 9 months as a young woman, she decided to pursue a professional career in photography. Elite moved to California and attended SB City College in 2007, where she won the School of Media Art best news photograph. In 2010 Elite started an AWoL Mentorship with photographer, Macduff Everton. Elite taught photography to SB Charter School youngsters, assigning them to photograph a loved one. She taught them how to edit and print before bringing their portraits home.

In 2013, Elite completed her BFA in photography with honors at Arizona State U. She has traveled to Cuba, Mexico and her native Israel on photographic expeditions. Elite’s photographs have been exhibited often since the completion of her AWoL mentorship. Today, Elite works as a full time photographer in Tempe Arizona. She photographs events in Phoenix and travels to capture landscapes and to create fine art.

Macduff said, “Elite shoot, shoot and shoot! Take chances, push what you think you can do, and break rules to really discover what you can capture with your camera and imagination. You learn most from your mistakes.”

So far this mentorship is the most significant stepping-stone in my professional career as a photographer. I feel that it helped me develop my personal style and to find out the direction that I want to go in. Furthermore, it helped me believe in myself as an artist and not be afraid of making mistakes. The advice that Macduff Everton gave me 6 years ago, has become an integral part of the artist and person I am today.”

~Elite Henenson
Dan La Bellarte approached AWoL because he wanted guidance for his poetry, and for it to be heard. His application to AWoL was written in verse. AWoL paired him with F. Albert Salinas, an accomplished poet and performer who has raise the awareness of poetry in Ventura and Santa Barbara. Dan now reads regularly at events. He has created poetry for dance and published his work. He has volunteered his time to be the Audiovisual Director at three annual AWoL Art Career Day Conferences. Dan recently received his masters degree at Vermont College and completed a mini mentorship with actor, Ann Dusenberry, focusing on presentation. He is currently travelling the US gleaning poetic inspiration for his work.

“I am a writer. It’s what I do. It’s my method of making meaning out of chaos, of finding harmony and making sense, of letting go and holding dear, of revealing and discovering, of falling in love and transcending. It is my modus operandi, the backbone of my experience, the latticework of my life. I go forward from this mentorship with greater confidence and versatility to authentically express my truth and reveal the shared experience, and privilege, of living.”

“My poetry is changing and moving in exciting ways. I’m being exposed to more poets than ever. Seriously, my floor is COVERED in books and I’m reading, reading, reading and writing a ton too! I definitely see the value of gaining some direction, some discipline, learning the craft of poetry. It’s a fine, fine craft. I am so glad to be a part of the tradition, to recognize myself as belonging to this great choir!”

“I would not be doing any of this without Albert’s mentoring. From day one, Albert pushed me to get my work out there. I know that he’s proud of me, and that has given me so much inspiration to keep going.”

~ Dan La Bellarte
Vows (Final Verse)
Dan La Bellarte

Who’s to say your hand I know, like the back of mine, along the way most part of my heart, is not the finest string of notes ever strung to the breeze by a bird, no less the most beautiful fragrance of a song, that in one second, can wrap a thousand and ten million years of searching, into just one kiss beneath an arbor, where bathed in the light of you, whispering softly as the leaf falling now, I say, “I do”
Sol Hill’s art graces the cover of this book and other Art Without Limits’ publications. He was a guest speaker at AWoL’s Art Career Day Conference. His talent, hunger to create, and commitment to art, are examples of what AWoL envisions for our artists. His work is on the cover of our brochure and this booklet. Sol is now on our Board of Directors. He has opened his own studio in Santa Barbara’s famed Funk Zone.

After receiving an MFA from Brooks Institute, Sol enrolled in an AWoL mentorship with Nathan Vonk, art dealer and Curator of Sculpture at Sullivan Goss, in order to hone his ability to market his art.

Subsequently, Sol’s art has been exhibited in Los Angeles, Chicago, Santa Fe, Texas, New York, Washington D.C., Chile and elsewhere. A recent installation project of Sol’s, Suspicious Privacy, examined the impact of the policy of electronic surveillance within American democracy on the integrity of an individual’s identity. His photography merges digital images with acrylic and varnish applied on canvas. He thinks outside of the box by using digital noise to create otherworldly images. Sol has completed a residency at the prestigious Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA.

My process is one of my own invention. I use digital noise to render the photograph into a contemporary visual image. Digital noise is an unwanted artifact that is widely considered worthless and ugly, yet I transform it into a thing of unexpected beauty. The result is like poetry, allowing room for introspection and discovery.”
In 2013, accomplished dancer, **Cecily Stewart**, (New York Theatre Ballet, Allegro Dance Theater, State Street Ballet, ArtBark International,) approached Julie at AWoL to assist her in starting an educational outreach program called Library Dances, to enhance high school students’ kinetic understanding, literary comprehension, and self-esteem by teaching dance inspired by the literature they are studying. Cecily’s vision facilitates the practice of linked learning by allowing students to work with professional dancers, as well as provide artistic performances that are accessible to the entire community.

Cecily was 13 years old when Julie McLeod first mentored her in choreography, and Julie was thrilled when she asked for assistance with Library Dances. With Julie’s guidance, and occasional calls for advice, Cecily’s vision is now heading into its fourth season. Art Without Limits acted as Library Dances’ fiscal sponsor until she achieved their own nonprofit status in 2015. Under Cecily’s direction, State Street Ballet dancers have performed alongside students from Santa Barbara Junior High, Laguna Blanca Upper School, and San Marcos High School in performances of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, “Romeo and Pirouette”, “The Great Gatsby”, “The Scarlet Letter”, “The Gift of the Magi”, and “Zorro”. Cecily serves as State Street Ballet’s Outreach Coordinator and the Director of Library Dances.

“I am incredibly grateful to Julie for her patience, encouragement, advice, and for always having the time to help me through the challenges of creating, producing, and coordinating a project with such scope and impact.”
Cecily Stewart, Library Dances

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, LibraryDances
When an accomplished artist such as Tom Pazderka asks about being mentored, their dedication to art is clear. An interdisciplinary installation artist, painter, sculptor, teacher and writer, Tom holds an MFA from the UC Santa Barbara where he was a Regents Fellow and the Artist in Residence for the 2016/2017 academic year. He was a lecturer of art at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. Half Czech and half American, the son of working class immigrants, he moved to the US at the age of 12 after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc.

Tom contacted Art Without Limits about Mentorship. Being fairly new to the area, he was interested in assistance creating his community of artists. We reached out to Colleen M. Kelly about mentoring Tom. Like Tom, Colleen is an Installation artist, painter, and sculptor, and also earned an MFA at UCSB. She has an awe-inspiring artistic energy and actively networks with artists throughout Southern California. They met at an AWoL BizArts Workshop, and hit it off! One of Tom’s large paintings was purchased by a gallery owner from Albuquerque, at our May/June 2017 exhibit at Wildling Museum of Art & Nature in Solvang.

“I burn, I draw, I construct and deconstruct objects loaded with historical and social baggage and conflicting ideologies. Often I combine a particular Czech fatalism with an American optimism to strange effect. Is history written by great leaders or madmen? Perhaps the answer does not matter. Through a personal vision of history I created a canon of famous and notorious cabin dwellers, of places both real and non-specific, inhabited and abandoned, because that is how time and history sometimes appear. My work runs through different practices, painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, book making, video, photography and social practice. The materials I use are simple, wood, mostly plywood, white oil paint, ashes collected from previous paintings and charcoal, some of which I find on local beaches. I burn the plywood with a torch, apply ashes and charcoal to the surface and finally paint the image into the ash in many layers with white oil paint. Most of my installations are found materials.

~Tom Pazderka
Nostalgie II. All puffy cloud paintings are essentially about the beauty and terrifying aspects of fire and ash clouds. Fire, like most disasters, are seductive and they draw one in with the horror that they pose but the sublime beauty that they present.

Angels of the New Light shows the western rose window of the Chartres cathedral. The painting is a disembodied presence of the window, meant to look foreboding or haunting. The angels of light were the fallen angels and the doctrine of the New Light was something that David Koresh was working on right before the raid on his church at Waco in 1993. It was his blueprint for how Koresh was going to populate the earth with the offspring he was to make with the women in his congregation.
Arriving in Santa Barbara, Si Jie Loo met local artist, Mary Heebner. At Mary’s studio Si Jie saw a book, written by her favorite professor at Dartmouth, and asked if by chance Mary knew her. It was Mary’s daughter, Sienna Craig.

These two were destined to meet. Both share an intrigue about art and cultures and weave their enchantment into what they create. Mary agreed to mentor Si Jie and guided her to an AWoL Art Career Day Conference. There, she met local artist, Dug Uyesaka, who suggested she contact Bella Rosa Galleries. A few days later an exhibit of her artwork had been arranged for the following month. She is fearless!

A multi-disciplinary artist who is interested in capturing the spirit of humanity, primarily with Chinese Ink, Si Jie graduated from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire with honors in Studio Art and has since lived and worked in both the US and Malaysia. As an artist in the diaspora, she is constantly on the move between places, cultures, music genres and languages. During her travels, she inks onto sketchpads and iPad captivating people, musicians, dancers and nature, most recently the Tibetan plateau and the Silk Road in Northeast China. She calls this body of work INKounters, and further develops larger abstract paintings that convey that essence in another series INKnovations. In December 2016, she finished a three-month art residency at Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia.

“The chance of learning Chinese Ink Painting fell on my lap when Dr. Cheah Thien Soong, a renowned ink painter in Malaysia invited me to study with him under an Art Traveling Fellowship granted by Dartmouth College. Our sessions were all conducted in my mother tongue. I was tasked to master this Eastern art form that once inspired Van Gogh and Gauguin, but also to innovate within it. Since then, I strive to make paintings that highlight both contemporary ideas and ancient wisdom. Coincidently, my mentor Mary Heebner does that brilliantly in her collages and paintings, combining abstract forms with elegant rendering of antiquity art pieces. I look up to her as a mentor and role model as I continue to march forward in my art career.”
~ Si Jie Loo
Winds of Change (2015) 27in x 54 in. Ink and water color on xuan paper.
Isaac Welsh, born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA started drawing at age 3, graduated the VADA program at Santa Barbara High. He spent two semesters studying illustration at Academy of Arts in San Francisco. Isaac completed his Mentorship with conceptual artist and social sculptor, Lisa Kaftori. He recently teamed up with Gustavo Adolfo Uribe, founder of Château Choló, an urban art platform, with a record label, a You Tube cooking show, creative prints, posters and t-shirts. Isaac created art for the music album Cholo 2.0 and they are producing hip-hop beats together for other rappers to lease. “It was cool having Lisa as my AWoL mentor. I learned about art from a philosophical standpoint. I was Introduced to a lot of different artists and learned to appreciate many mediums that I knew little about. It got me out of my “artistic hibernation” by creating weekly projects.

Derrick Curtis has taught social dance forms in Santa Barbara for 30 years, was a board member for Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and the recipient of their 12th Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to dance in Santa Barbara. First presented in 2000 at the Lobero Theatre by Dance Alliance, Derrick Curtis Productions began presenting BASSH! in 2013 at Center Stage Theater and for the last four years at the new Victoria Street Theater. He was mentored by Julie McLeod in Dance Production and is Fiscally Sponsored by Art Without Limits.

Ash Robinson, graduated Brooks Institute of Photography. Attending an AWoL BizArts Workshop, and expressed interest in being mentored. “Working with MacDuff Everton and Art Without Limits has been a gift that cannot be replaced. I met Macduff at an AWoL Soirée fundraiser, and we immediately hit it off; tons of photography talk. Since then he has helped pave a road for me to travel for my photography. Giving me new ideas and inspiration that he sees or from a morning of going through his many books and personal work. His work ethic and hunger to make photos is inspirational. He has always pushed me to do more and to constantly continue learning and creating.”
**MORE STORIES... AND MANY MORE TO COME!**

**Jackson Gillies** came to AWoL as the 2016 Santa Barbara Teen Star to sing at our Art Career Day Conference. We were blown away by his talent. It took us a while to come up with the perfect mentor for him...Randy Tico! We also set up a mini mentorship with actor, Ann Dusenberry. Jackson absorbs like a thirsty sponge. Randy has helped him to find gigs opening for fabulous shows at the Lobero and SoHo opening for and playing with Jim Messina, Kenny Loggins and well known musicians. Jackson is a spokesperson for Type 1 Diabetes and Hidradenitis Suppurativa as he has them both. He participates in the Artificial Pancreas Project and volunteers for nonprofits and Jackson doesn't miss a beat! He reaches out fearlessly with his talent to support them. Look out for him! He is a major talent and will go far!

**Leanna Thompson** attended AWOL's 5th Art Career Day Conference for young artists where she met photographer, Macduff Everton, who was leading a roundtable discussion. He offered to mentor her in photography, through the Art Without Limits mentorship program. On their first meeting, he invited Leanna to join him and photographer, Isaac Hernandez, that afternoon to photograph the release of pelicans, from the Refugio Beach oil spill.

“I ecstatically tagged along and got wonderful photos. To say thank you, I asked my father (who happens to be a pilot) to take him for a flight over Lake Cachuma – Macduff always wanted to photograph. This mentorship is a give and give, not a give and take and it makes it all the more fun.

~ Leanna Thompson
EMPOWER EMERGING ARTISTS TO SUCCEED IN THEIR CAREERS BY INVESTING IN ART WITHOUT LIMITS TODAY!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR GIFTS.
AWoL is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group. Visit us at www.awolsb.org

ART WITHOUT LIMITS
816 Chelham Way ~ Santa Barbara, CA 93108 ~ (805) 565-1332/452-4881
e-mail: talent@awolsb.org