

## **Biography**

Traci Wright Martin is originally from Dundee, Oregon where she lived for 16 years. She moved to the Ardmore, Oklahoma area with her family during her high school years and, after her time in college, lived and worked there with her husband Evan until their move to Greenville, South Carolina in 2018.

Martin graduated in 2005 from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and a minor in Psychology with an emphasis in Art Therapy. During her college years, she served as an art instructor and tutor for student workshops in both private and public school settings. Following graduation, Martin worked for the Charles B. Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts in Ardmore as Assistant Director and Educational Coordinator for two years. Throughout her time in Ardmore, she continued work in art education as a private tutor for local students and as an instructor for the Goddard Center Art Studios. In 2010, she began traveling as a guest artist and workshop instructor to conferences and special events in Arizona, Alaska, Texas, and across Oklahoma.

In December 2007, Martin co-founded Studio 107, in Ardmore, with Susan Pfau Yeager. During her time as Co-Owner of Studio 107, Martin worked as curator of exhibits in the gallery, manager of the visual art studio, and worked extensively as a commercial photographer. Her photography has been featured in *Oklahoma Today* magazine, *Art Focus* magazine, *The Daily Ardmoreite*, and a number of catalogues for prestigious art collections.

She has received numerous awards and scholarships for her artwork and has participated and placed in many exhibits and juried shows throughout the country. Martin's 2009 Oklahoma State Capitol show, "A Meditation On/Through Colour" was her first of several major solo exhibits. Her charcoal and mixed media work has received top awards and accolades in a number of regional juried shows. Her work is featured in both private and public collections in a total of 22 states and 5 different countries.

In 2010, Martin was invited to serve as a panelist for the Oklahoma Arts Council Statewide Conference to discuss her work in a community performance project entitled "Her Story," a collaboration between Studio 107 and Ardmore Contemporary Dance Company, involving the use of visual art, dance, and music. She served on a variety of committees and statewide arts initiatives ranging from her inaugural membership on the Task Force for the statewide ONEAL Committee (Oklahoma's New and Emerging Arts Leaders) to her role as Visual Arts Ministry leader for Christ Community Church. In the summers of 2012 & 2013, she coordinated and ran community-wide "Kids Art Day" events in Ardmore, featuring a number of local organizational partners.

In August 2015, Martin accepted a position as Artist-in-Residence and Art Studios Manager for the Goddard Center Art Studios. In partnership with the Center's Outreach Coordinator, and utilizing her background in Art Therapy studies, she worked to provide art instruction to underserved populations in Ardmore and surrounding communities. To date, Martin has worked with the following organizations and groups to provide art therapy experiences: The Naomi House (a drug rehabilitation home for women), the Family Shelter, Christ Community Church (art journaling group), Ardmore Village (home for seniors), and Take Two Academy (an alternative school). During her time at Studio 107, she also worked as a private tutor, teaching art to a number of students with special mental health and behavioral needs.

Upon completion of her year-long residency at the Goddard Center Art Studios, Martin co-founded "The Artist Collective", a joint venture between several local artists, housed within Smartt Photography Studios in downtown Ardmore in 2016. Through her remaining time in Ardmore, she continued to work with local artists to produce collaborative work, to display work in a number of "pop up" galleries and retail space, and to teach classes and workshops in the community.

Martin currently works in Greenville, South Carolina full-time with her solo venture, "Traci Martin Studios." She is currently represented by Marvin's Place Art Gallery in Ardmore, Oklahoma.