

This summer I will be embarking on a week-long journey throughout the Midwest. This project is called the **Midwest Artist Studios™** (MAS).

As an art educator with 13+ years of classroom experience, I often wonder what other resources I can implement into my curriculum to expose, educate, and engage my art students to different types of art processes, techniques, mediums, and content; both traditional and non-traditional. I am sure I am not the only one who may think this. In order to stimulate our students' personal creative inquiries I believe educators need to not only embrace the use of technology, but also become their liaison into the art world. This is why I would like to begin searching art and artists that are sharing their vision, their art, and stories across the Midwest.

This project will consist of a photographer, writer, videographer, and social media expert. MAS will have an online presence and be available through print form. The blog will have such as but not limited to: interviews, gallery of artists' work, websites, video, behind the scenes, and photos of the artist's studios. Along with this blog we will be producing a catalog and a teacher instructional guide. The goals of this guide are to 1) to focus on 6-12 Art Education, 2) to embrace contemporary art locally, regionally, and nationally and bringing it into the classroom, 3) to develop unit plans focused on such as but not limited to: varied art processes, narratives, collaboration, and technology, 4) to implement unit plans to become a supplement to an art curriculum concentrating on the focus on such as but not limited to: the reinforcement of the Elements and Principles of Design, Student Learning Objectives, Common Core Standards, Literacy and Differentiated Instruction.

What makes this different than any other resource or project? MAS is different because it fits a need that many educators have and that is a lack of resources focused on Contemporary Art. There are plenty of sites where you can find artists you may be looking for for a lesson, however, one thing that these sites do not provide is an intimate and accessible studio experience. Through our collaborative expertise, we can create a well-rounded experience where educators will be able to have access to our journey via [midwestartiststudios.com](http://midwestartiststudios.com), implement unit plans into their curriculum (available only in print form), have access to artists talking about their work, a gallery of photographs, artists' narratives relating to their work, a private viewing room of videos, and so much more.

The MAS Blog, [midwestartiststudios.com](http://midwestartiststudios.com), will be available in the Fall of 2014.

If you would like to be kept in the loop with the *Midwest Artist Studios™* (MAS) Project with updates and/or availability of the Midwest Artist Studios catalog and teacher workbook simply email Frank Juarez at [midwestartiststudios@gmail.com](mailto:midwestartiststudios@gmail.com).