



Peter J. Geisser Artist / Art Educator

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Peter Geisser has been an active member of the New England Arts and Art Education Communities for most of his professional life. His training in painting, ceramics, mosaics and stained glass was done at the **School of the Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston, where he received a **Diploma** and **5th Year Graduate Certificate**. He also holds a **B.S. in Education** and a **Master of Fine Arts** from **Tufts University**.

As a Stained-Glass Artist, he works exclusively in European-Antique (mouth-blown) glass. His work can be seen at **RI Hospital**, Providence, R.I. in the **Chapel of Hope**, the **Cancer Center** and **Hasbro Children's Hospital**. Geisser collaborates with **Mika Seeger**, on stoneware sculptural/mosaic murals: India Point Park, Providence; the **Providence Children's Museum**; the **RI Training School**, and the **Waves of Narragansett** for Gilbane Co. He has recently reinstalled 30 years of murals in the new **RI School for the Deaf** and is a featured artist in the film: RI Archive Project: <http://riaaproject.blogspot.com>.

"It is important that my art be of service to people, not to simply be of service to itself. In my career, I have been fortunate to have had commissions in schools, a prison, hospitals, churches, public spaces as well as private homes." -PJGeisser
Professor Paul F. Norton writes:

As is the artist's custom, no certain meaning is incorporated in his designs. Instead there is an attitude of appropriateness for the space and a relationship with the world of nature seen through the windows. Peter Geisser's art never deals with the world as we normally see it, but instead with forms that may suggest ideas that are very real to us.

Geisser has complimented his career as an artist with an active career as an art educator, teaching at the **Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston, the **Rhode Island School of Design, Dept. of Continuing Education** and the **University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth**. After thirty years, he retired as the Art Director at the **R.I. School for the Deaf**, where he created an Art/Art History Program, which received worldwide recognition and has been featured twice in **SCHOOL ARTS**. He has given workshops on the R.I. School for the Deaf's Art Program around the world as well as at national and regional art education conventions and has a chapter in the **National Art Education Association** best selling publication, **Reaching and Teaching Special Education Students Through Art**. In 2005 Geisser received the **Rhode Island Art Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award** and in 2013 he became the **Eastern Region VP Elect for the National Art Education Association** and serves on the **NAEA Board of Directors as VP** from 2014-2016.

He is not only an artist/educator; he is an active force in the community. With colleague Mika Seeger, Geisser created, a ceramic mural with 500 people for the **India Point Playground**, Providence, and in 2007, they completed a 92 foot ceramic-sculpture/mosaic mural: **Waves of Narragansett** for the Gilbane Corp. From 1992-96 he created and directed the **CIRCLE OF CLAY**, a project for **VSA Arts R.I.**, which decorated seven floors of the Hasbro Children's Hospital with thousands of ceramic tiles made by 10,000 children from all over the state. He has directed projects and presented programs at the **Museum of Art, RISD**, and the **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**, which have brought special needs populations into the mainstream of the art world.

Mr. Geisser is on the Boards of **¡CITYARTS!**, Providence, RI; **Past President of the Rhode Island Art Education Association** and of **Special Needs Art Ed., National Art Education Association**. He is a founding member of the **Boston Museum of Fine Arts Access Advisory Board** on which he still serves, and has been an advisor to the **RISD Museum of Art**, the **R.I. State Council on the Arts**, the **Governor's Task Force on Literacy and the Arts**, the **R.I. Committee for the Humanities**, **Very Special Arts R.I.**, **Perishable Theatre**, the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**, **The Kennedy Center** and the **National Gallery of Art**.

He has been honored as: one of the **350 Outstanding Citizens of R.I.** by the City of Providence; one of the **50th Anniversary Scholars** at the **National Gallery of Art**; a recipient of a **State of the Arts Award** from RISCA. He received the **R.I. Business Volunteers for the Arts Humanitarian Award**, for the **CIRCLE OF CLAY** project, declared the **Best Public Art in R.I.** by **R.I. Monthly Magazine**. He appears in Paul Norton's **Rhode Island Stained Glass**, and Stephan Brigidi's **Remarkable People**. In 1997, the **Rhode Island School of Design** awarded him an **Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts** degree for his work as an artist, art educator and arts advocate. He received the 2008 **Pell Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts** from Trinity Repertory Company, Providence. In 2012, Geisser was awarded **The National Art Education Association Marion Quinn Dix Leadership Award**, and in 2013 received the **Sr. Ann Keefe Creativity and Social Justice Award** from **¡CityArts!**, Providence.



Peter J. Geisser Artist / Art Educator Curriculum Vitae

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Education/ Degrees

- 1997 **Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts**, Rhode Island School of Design
- 1992– Study with **Mika Seeger**, Master Ceramicist
- 1965-71 **School of the Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston, MA
 - Diploma**, '70 Painting, Stained Glass, Mosaics, Ceramics
 - Fifth Year Graduate Certificate**, '71
- 1965-71 **Tufts University**, Medford, MA
 - Bachelor of Science in Education**, '69, Art Education, Counseling
 - Master of Fine Arts**, '71, Stained Glass, Mosaics

Awards/Honors

- 2014-16 **Eastern Region Vice President, Board of Directors, National Art Education Association**
- 2013 **Sr. Ann Keefe Creativity and Social Justice Award**, ;CityArts!, Providence, RI
- 2013 **Eastern Region Vice President–Elect, National Art Education Association**
- 2012 **Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award, National Art Education Association**
- 2011 Naming Honor: **NAEA/SNAE, CEC, VSA Peter J. Geisser Special Needs Art Educator of the Year Award**
- 2009–11 **President of Special Needs Art Education NAEA**
- 2008 **The Pell Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts**, Trinity Repertory Co.
- 2007 Grant **R.I. State Council on the Arts** for Ceramic Mural at the **R.I. Training School**
- 2007 Grant **VSA Arts R.I.** for Ceramic Mural at the **Horton School**, Cranston, RI
- 2005 **Rhode Island Art Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award**
- 2004 **Providence Preservation Society Award** for *Past Points* mural at India Point Playground
- 2004 Grants from **R.I. State Council on the Arts** for **India Point Park Ceramic Mural PAST POINTS I & II** with Mika Seeger
- 1999–01 **President of the Rhode Island Art Education Association**
- 2001 Honored Member, **Strathmore's Who's Who** 2001-2002 Edition
- 2000 Grant from **L.E.F. Foundation** for AS220 Stained Glass Windows
- 2000 Grant from **R.I. State Council on the Arts** for AS220 Stained Glass Windows
- 1998 Grant from **R.I. State Council on the Arts** for Riverwalk Seasons
- 1997 **Innovative Artist Award**, Very Special Arts Rhode Island
- 1997 **Best of Series for 3-D Artwork**, Electronic Slide Gallery, 1997 NAEA, New Orleans, LA
- 1996 **Remarkable People: A Rhode Island Family Album**, Stephan Brigidi
- 1996 **R.I. Art Education Association Exhibition**, Second Place, Sarah Doyle Center, RI.
- 1995 **Good Folk**, Providence Journal, December 25, 1995
- 1995 **International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievement**, American Biog. Inst., NC
- 1994 **Best Public Art R.I.**, CIRCLE OF CLAY, Best of R.I. Issue, [Rhode Island Monthly](#), 7/94
- 1994 **Humanitarian Award**, Business Volunteers/Arts for the CIRCLE OF CLAY
- 1995–03 **Who's Who in America** 57th Ed. 2003, 56th Ed. 2002; 55th Ed. 2001; 54th Ed. 2000; 52nd Ed. 1998, **Who's Who the East** 26th Ed. '99; **Who's Who in American Education** 4th Ed.; **Who's Who in the World** 12th Ed. '95-96, 15th Ed. '98 Nat. Ref. Institute, N.J.
- 1992 **State of the Arts Award**, R.I. State Council on the Arts
- 1991 **50th Anniversary Scholar**, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1986 **One of the 350 Outstanding Citizens of Rhode Island**, Providence 350th Ann. Committee
- 1984 Finalist, R.I. Committee on the Humanities, **Humanities Teacher of the Year**
- 1969 **Dana Pond Painting Award**, First Prize, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Consultant and Organizations

- 2012 **Kennedy Center Forum on Art Education and Special Education**, Washington, DC
- 2012– **Sandywoods Farm Inc.**, Agriculture-Art-Community, Tiverton, RI, Board of Directors
- 2010– ;**CITY ARTS!**, Providence RI Board of Directors
- 2010 – **RISD Museum Education Committee**, Providence, RI
- 2006–11 **NAEA Delegates Assembly** for SNEA, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11
- 2005 **Trinity Repertory Theater** Search Committee for Artistic Director
- 2008–10 **Trinity Repertory Theater Ambassador** 2008–2010
- 2001-04 **Arts Learning Network: RISCA and RI Department of Education**
- 1999-01 **Governor's Task Force on Literacy in the Arts**

Consultant and Organizations (continued)

- 1999– NAEA Delegates Assembly for RIAEA, '99, '00, '01, '09
- 1979– Special Needs Access Board, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 1979–05 Advisor on Special Needs, R.I. School of Design, Providence, RI
- 1997–98 Teacher Advisory Board: Museum of Art, RISD
- 1996–97 Teacher Advisory Board: Project New Directions, RISD
- 1995–13 R.I. Art Education Association, Executive Board, Newsletter, Pres., Parliamentarian
- 1993–99 Perishable Theatre, Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- 1992–93 Advisory Board Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA
- 1991–94 R.I. Hospital Art Steering/Selection Committee, Providence, RI
- 1991–92 Advisory Board National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- 1989–90 Teacher Advisory Board: Master of Arts in Teaching Program, RISD, Prov., RI
- 1989 Advisory Committee for the R.I. State Council on the Arts
- 1984–90 Teacher Advisory Board: R.I. Committee on the Humanities

Stained Glass Installations (public)

- 2007 Chapel, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
- 2004 Cancer Center, APC Building, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
- 2003 AS220, Providence, RI
- 1998 Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church, Warwick, Rhode Island
- 1996 Laurelmead at Butler Hospital, Providence, RI
- 1995 South Kingstown Public Library, Wakefield, RI
- 1994 Hasbro Children's Hospital Chapel, Providence, RI
- 1992 St. Joseph's Rectory/Regina Caeli, Home for retired priests, Providence, RI
- 1990–91 St. Mark's Church, Cranston, RI
- 1990 Notre Dame College, Manchester, New Hampshire
- 1989 Roger Williams Park Museum, Providence, RI
- 1987 Trinity Church, Concord, Mass.
- 1986 Baldichino in Lower Chapel St. Michael's Church, Providence, RI
- 1984–85 St. Michael's Church, Lower Chapel, Providence, RI
- 1982 Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, East Vestibule, Providence, RI
- 1980 Chapel of St. John Vianney Home for Retired Priests, Providence, RI
- 1980 Immaculate Conception Church, Chapel-Meeting Room, Cranston, RI
- 1979 Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, West Vestibule, Providence, RI
- 1975 Immaculate Conception Church, Cranston, RI
- 1972 Holy Cross Father's Retreat House Chapel, North Easton, Mass.
- 1971 Boston University Newman House Chapel, Boston, Mass.
- 1971 St. Clement's Eucharistic Shrine, Boston, Mass.
- 1970 St. Mark's Church, Baptistery window, Cranston, RI
- 1969 Boston University Newman Chapel [destroyed], Boston, MA
- 1968 Tufts University Newman Chapel, Medford, MA
- 1967– Commissions in over forty-five private homes

Murals

- 2014 Providence Children's Museum *Mountains of Mist* ceramic-sculpture/mosaic with Mika Seeger
- 2009–12 Recreation of Murals at the RI School for the Deaf, RISCA 1% for Art Grant
- 2007-10 WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM?...RI State Training School
ceramic-sculpture/mosaic with Mika Seeger and Dan Ryan, RISCA 1% for Art Grant
- 2007 WAVES OF NARRAGANSETT ceramic-sculpture/mosaic with Mika Seeger/Gilbane Corp.
- 2006 India Point Park PAST POINTS II ceramic mural with Mika Seeger/ RISCA Grant
- 2004 India Point Park PAST POINTS ceramic mural with Mika Seeger/ RISCA Grant
- 1997 RIVERWALK REGISTERS, ceramic tiles for Riverwalk Pavilion, Providence, RI
- 1994 CIRCLE OF CLAY, seven floors of murals with 10,000 tiles made by children for
Hasbro Children's Hospital, Providence, RI
- 1991 Painted Mural–Entrance to Chapel, Notre Dame College, Manchester, NH
- 1989 Ceramic Tile Murals, Child Development Center, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
- 1987 Ceramic-Relief Tile Mural [Babylonian Lions] Museum of Art, RISD, Providence, RI
- 1985 Ceramic-Relief Tile Mural, RI School for the Deaf, Providence, RI
- 1978 Exterior and Interior Painted Murals, RI School for the Deaf, Providence, RI
- 1975 Lobby Mural, Mosaic, RI School for the Deaf, Providence, RI
- 1980 Interior Painted Murals, RI State Health Dept. Laboratories, Providence, RI

Exhibitions

- 2013 **The RI Art Archive Project Exhibition, Bannister Gallery**, RI College, Providence, RI
- 2013 **Spring Bull Gallery, Newport, RI**
- 2013 **ART on the FARM Sandywoods Cooperative, Atrium Gallery**, RISCA, Providence, RI
- 2012 **Sandywoods Gallery Members Exhibition**, Tiverton, RI
- 2004 **MASTERSTROKES Artwork by Older Artists** URI Providence Campus, Prov., RI
- 2003 **AS220**, Sketches and Photos of 2003 “Reflections of Glass”, Providence, RI
- 2001 The Electronic Gallery Membership Exhibit, **National Art Education Assoc.**, New York
- 2000 Summer Faculty Exhibition, **Rhode Island School of Design**, Prov., RI
- 1997 – 07 **R. I. Art Education Assoc. Exhibition, Kraus Gallery**, Providence RI
- 1997 The Electronic Slide Gallery, **National Art Education Assoc.**, New Orleans
- 1996 **R. I. Art Education Assoc. Exhibition, Sarah Doyle Center** Providence R.I.
- 1989, 92, 94, 96,97, 98 – Summer Faculty Exhibition, **Rhode Island School of Design**, Prov., RI
- 1992, 93, 94 – **R. I. Art Teachers Exhibition, Museum of Art**, Providence, RI
- 1988 **Warwick Museum**, Warwick, RI
- 1983 **Community College of Rhode Island**, Knight Campus, Warwick, RI
- 1971 **Cohen Art Center**, Tufts University

Publications

- 2013 **RI Art Archive Project, Featured Artist In the Community**, film <http://riaaproject.blogspot.com>
- 2012 NAEA Mentor of the Month, June 2012, NAEA website: <http://www.arteducators.org/>
- 2010 “Unique challenges of a mural-maker”, by Bill Van Siclén, **Providence Journal**, January 17, 2010
- 2009-11 **NAEA Newsletter** Special Needs Art Education, ten columns, Reston, VA
- 2006 **Reaching and Teaching Special Education Students Through Art**, B.Gerber/D.Guay Ed., Chapter on teaching deaf students; Publisher; NAEA Best selling publication of NAEA
- 2005 Article for “**The Wonder Full Teacher Project**” School Arts, February, 2005.
- 2001 **Rhode Island Stained Glass**, Paul Norton, William Bauhan, Publisher Dublin, NH
- 1997 **OFF THE WALL: Circle of Clay Activity Book**, North Star Press, Providence, RI
- 1996 **Remarkable People**, Stephan Brigidi, sunningdale Publishing, Bristol, RI
- 1996 *Visual Literacy ...*, **Papers of the International Congress on Education of the Deaf**, University of Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 1996 *Art Education or Art in Education?* **R.I. Art Education Association Newsletter**, Fall 1996
- 1991 *A Circle of Clay*, **School Arts**, The Art Education Magazine, Jan., 1991, Worcester, MA
- 1990 Article co-authored with Peter London: **School Arts**, February, 1990, Worcester, MA
- 1985 Software Review: **Magazine** Vol.2 No.10, Icon Concepts Corp., Athens, Texas
- 1978 Contributing Writer: **Sentences and other Systems- A Language and Learning Curriculum for Hearing-Impaired Children**; Blackwell, et al., A.G. Bell Association, Washington, D.C.

Experience in Education

- 2011– **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**, Lecturer, Special Needs Issues in Art Education
- 2010–11 Mentor for **AS220/RI Training School Mentoring Program**
- 2003 Graduate Instructor, **The Institute for Art Education, U. Massachusetts, Dartmouth**
- 1992-96 **Very Special Arts R.I.** Project Director for **Circle of Clay**, 10,000 tiles by children to decorate the new Hasbro Children’s Hospital at RI Hospital, Providence.
- 1987-’02 Art Instructor, **RI School of Design, Continuing Education**, Providence, RI
- 1977-83 Director of **RI School for the Deaf / Cranston HS East Signing Choir**
- 1973-’03 Art Director, **RI School for the Deaf**, Providence, RI
- 1970-73 Coordinator of the Art Department, **Boston School for the Deaf**, Randolph, MA
- 1967-73 Art Instructor, **Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston, MA
- 1971-72 Summer Lecturer, Italian Renaissance Art Rome, Italy, for American Leadership Study Groups, **Clarke University**, Worcester, MA
- 1969-70 Art Instructor, High School Scholarship Program, Boston City School Dept., Boston, MA
- 1969 Painting Instructor, Belvoir Terrace, Fine Arts Camp, Lenox, MA

Lectures and Contributions to Art and Deaf Education

- 2014 Keynote, **Moore College of Art and Design Symposium**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 Presentation, New Hampshire Art Education Fall Conference, Manchester, NH
- 2012 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, New York, NY
- 2011 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, Seattle, WA
- 2010 Keynote, **Moore College of Art and Design Symposium**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 Keynote, **PAAE Fall Convention**, Pittsburgh, PA

Lectures and Contributions to Art and Deaf Education (continued)

- 2010 Presentation, **RIAEA Fall Conference**, West Warwick, RI
- 2010 Keynote, **Art Educators of New Jersey Spring Symposium**, Princeton, NJ
- 2010 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, Baltimore, MD
- 2009 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, Minneapolis, MN
- 2008 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, New Orleans, LA
- 2007 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, New York, NY
- 2006–12 **Delegates Assembly National Art Education Association**, for SNAE
- 2006 Presentation, **RIAEA Conference**, Kingston, RI
- 2006 Presentation, **Council for Exceptional Children**, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2006 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, Chicago, IL
- 2002 Presentation: **North American Assoc. for Community of Inquiry, Montclair University**, NJ
- 2001 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, New York, NY
- 2000 Presentation: **Tollgate High School Workshop, at Salve Regina University**, Newport, RI
- 2000 Presentation: **Rhode Island Geographic Society, at Roger Williams University**, Bristol, RI
- 2000 Presentations: **New England Access the Arts Conference**, Cambridge, MA
- 2000 Presentation: **Rhode Island Alliance for the Arts**
- 1999–01 Delegate to **Delegates Assembly National Art Education Association**, for RIAEA
- 1999 Presentation: **International Congress on Philosophy for Children**, Brasilia, Brazil
- 1999 Presentation: **New England Art Teacher Association Convention**, Hyannis, MA
- 1998 Presentation: at the **Connecticut and Rhode Island Art Education Associations' Convention**, R.I. School of Design, Providence, RI
- 1998 Presentation: **Kilgore College**, Kilgore, Texas
- 1998 Presentation: **Phillips Deaf Action Center of Louisiana**, Shreveport, LA
- 1997 Two Presentations: **New England Art Teacher Association Convention**, Sturbridge, MA
- 1997 The Arts and Healthcare, Conference, **Hasbro Children's Hospital**, Providence, RI
- 1997 Presentation, **National Art Education Association**, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1996 Presentation: How to Build A Mummy Case, **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**
- 1996 Graduation Speaker, **Worcester Center for Crafts**
- 1995 Presentation: *Visual Literacy ...*, **International Congress on Education of the Deaf**, Tel Aviv
- 1994 Presentations at the **Massachusetts Art Teacher Association Convention**, Providence, RI
- 1991 Guest Speaker, Art Education, **RI School of Design**, Providence, RI
- 1991 Guest Speaker, **School of the Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston, MA
- 1991–03 **RISD at RISD**, a program of weekly visits to the Museum of Art, for R.I.School/ Deaf students
- 1990 Presentation: *A Circle of Clay* **International Congress on Education of the Deaf**, Rochester, NY
- 1989-90 "Senior" Senior Art, art history course offered to Deaf Senior Citizens **R.I. School for the Deaf**
- 1988 Visiting Artists Series, **Glass Department, RI School of Design**, Providence, RI
- 1987 Speaker, School Leaders' Study Group, **Brown University**, Providence, RI
- 1986 Presentation: **Gallaudet University**, Department of Education
- 1986 Guest Lecturer, **South African Association of Arts**, Pretoria, South Africa
- 1986 Six Seminars on Curriculum: *Imagine and Become* Presented in Worcester, Durban, and Pretoria, South Africa to Professionals in Deaf Education, from twenty nine Schools for the Deaf, the **University of Stellenbosch**, and the **University of Pretoria**
- 1985 Workshop: **Skåden Skole**, Oslo, Norway for the Scandinavian Teachers of the Deaf
- 1985 Presentation: *Art History: More Than a Cut-Paste Lesson for Deaf Education*
International Congress on Education of the Deaf, University of Manchester, UK
- 1985, 84 Guest Lecturer, Art Education, **Southeastern Massachusetts University**
- 1982 Workshop: **American Choral Director's Association Convention**, Providence, RI
- 1981 Presentation: **National Institute for the Deaf, Madrid**, Spain
- 1980-96 Annual Holiday Pilgrimage, **Museum of Art, RI School of Design**, Providence, RI
- 1980 Presentation: **Gallaudet College**, Washington, D.C.
- 1979 Workshop: **New England Music Educators National Convention**, Springfield, MA
- 1977-83 Founder and Director: **R.I. School for the Deaf Signing Choir**
Affiliated with the Cranston High School East A Cappella Choir
- 1976 Established the **Senior Art History Program**, R.I. School for the Deaf

Travel

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland