

CLAUDIA ANN RAPHAEL

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Create • A • Story**

**Expressive Artist, Art Therapist, REAT
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Dear Friends:

Story is one of the oldest forms of teaching, and cross-culturally, it has been the main vehicle for handing down a culture's important values from generation to generation. From a mythic perspective, I believe story can support the unfolding of the dynamic purpose that is encoded in each of us. This coding holds our life calling, our greatest potential. Humans by nature are mythic beings. In essence, we could say we are all "storied". No one escapes myth for these mythic patterns are encoded in our cells. They live in our bones, travel in our blood, reach our nervous systems and incarnate with us into life. Our myths weave throughout all our tragedies and our victories. The question we should all ask ourselves is not do I have a myth, a greater story to live, but what is my story, and how can I actualize it? As a parent, educator and artist, this question has become the focus of all my work.

One very simple way to open the doorway to this mythic potential is to hear story and myth. In myth we can find large universal patterns. These patterns often express the deep coding of human consciousness, and people of all times and places are compelled to tell and retell these stories for this very reason. In this way, we seem to find avenues to express the deepest truths we know about ourselves.

Jean Houston, a pioneer in this work believes: "Consciously or unconsciously, we are drawn to stories that provide the missing parts to the puzzle of our own life. When we encounter these tales we recognize them instantly. There is something about them, a flash of connection that says In this story there is a piece of my own."

All children come with this knowing. There is not a child alive that does not love story time. The magic of story has not yet been forgotten, put aside. Story and myth are truly gifts from the universe. They help us find our way. They give us keys to ourselves and open us to new experiences that expand us. Seeing our life as a great story can fill us with passion, give us access to infinite possibilities, and grant us the opportunity of living a mythic life, one rich in creative fire.

I believe knowing and living our life as a great story, can be viewed as the most important goal we all share as human beings.

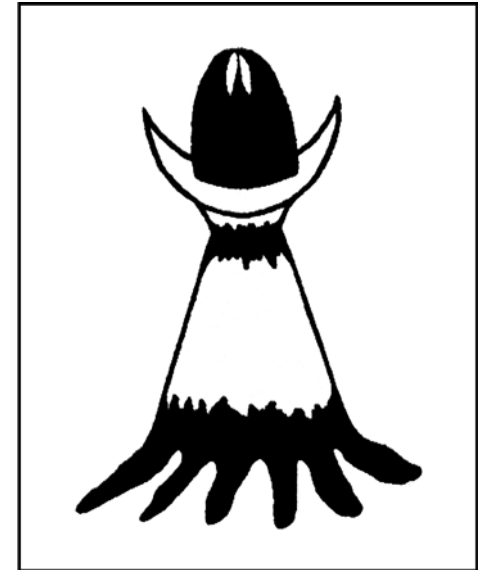
I invite you to come and join me in a sacred circle, where we will peel away each story in search of our deeper selves. Together we will find our roots and grow our wings!

Artful Imaginings,



CLAUDIA A. RAPHAEL

AN INVITATION to STORY



FROM
Create • A • Story
AN IMAGINAL
STUDIO

For further information please call:
(505) 989-5028
www.createastorystudio.com

STORY ... AS A WAY OF KNOWING THE SELF...

Create·A·Story is a healing arts studio that honors the language of the soul and the imagination. Storytelling and the art of story are very healing and ancient practices that nurture the imagination and deeper self. In small groups, participants will experience the telling of great myths and stories, as well as the ancient practice of "peeling away" each story for greater understanding and self nourishment.



In "ARTFUL" story, we find our roots and grow our wings.

The language of the inner world or inner reality is quite different from the language of the outer world. This deep part of us speaks in myth, metaphor, image and symbol. This type of language brings messages to us from the deepest part of ourselves. In honoring our story, we honor ourselves. The work of creating Sacred Art is very transformational and healing. Through this process, we come to know ourselves in a new way. This work

nurtures our imaginations, building our confidence in hearing and embracing our own innate wisdom. This process helps us contact our own inner "Wise Guide". This can be very helpful during times of change and transition. Often during our journey through life, we find we must stop and take another look, or a new look at ourselves. Change requires this of us, and art making offers a very important source of inspiration and renewal during these times, both for our children and ourselves.

A great experience for all ages.

STORY CIRCLE

Each Story Circle will have a minimum of two students and will not exceed a maximum of six students. Ms. Raphael will arrange the day and time the classes are held with those participating.

THE YOUNG STORY WEAVERS

Age: 4yrs - 6yrs
Four one-hour sessions

The first seven years of life are rich in imagination and myth. Animals and fairy tales play especially important roles in the lives of young children. Together we will explore this mythology with four chosen stories and several expressive art techniques.

THE MYTHIC WEAVERS

Age: 7yrs - 11yrs
Four one-hour sessions

In this class, the group will explore Native American Folk Tales and Creation Mythology. Ms. Raphael will guide the students in discovering important images through the art making process.

THE SPINNERS

Age: 11yrs - 18yrs
Four one-hour sessions

As the psyche of the child grows, it is important to introduce tales of great heroes and heroines. Greek Mythology will be the main focus of this age group. As the group facilitator, Ms. Raphael will assist the students in choosing one or two themes to explore deeply, both in story and through art.

THE MYTHIC JOURNEY

Age: Adult
Four one and one half hour sessions

In this class, the participants will choose the theme or landscape. Ms. Raphael will assist the students in the process of telling and peeling away each story or stories. She will support each student through art making in finding the pieces that clarify and shed light upon their own individual story.