

## Mills Pond Gallery 2024 Summer Art Teachers



**Melissa Vultaggio** is an elementary educator in the Farmingdale School District. Having a lifelong passion for art and education, she holds both an Associate degree in Fashion Design Apparel from the Fashion Institute of Technology and a degree in Childhood Education from SUNY Old Westbury. Her career has led her from designing dress apparel and store window displays to teaching in the classroom at the elementary school level. In her free time, Melissa enjoys visiting contemporary art museums and painting outdoors with her four children. Melissa's enthusiasm for art education comes from her belief that young children's creativity is at its peak, when young minds are free to imagine and explore, given the right motivation, artistic mediums and skills to experiment with!



**Alexandria Chimenti** is a young art teacher originally from Smithtown, NY. She currently teaches high school art at a small district in upstate New York while pursuing a Masters Degree in Adolescent Special Education. Alex studied Visual Arts Education with a concentration in Painting and Drawing at SUNY New Paltz. During her undergraduate studies, Alex also competed as member of the varsity women's tennis team for the university. Alex considered her artistic specialty to be figure drawing that she studied under Professor Cheri Wheat-Schmitt at New Paltz. She loves working in and teaching her favorite mediums which include oil paint, gouache, charcoal, ink, colored pencil, and printmaking.



Teaching art on the elementary and middle school levels for over 15 years, **Kim Falco** is currently Art & Technology Director for St. Philips and James school in St. James. She received a BA in Studio Art with a concentration in Painting and Drawing and a minor in Art History from Mansfield University. She then went on to receive a MS in Art Education from LIU Post. Kim has taught many workshops ranging from ceramics to jewelry design to digital photography, but especially enjoys teaching painting and drawing. The elementary level is Kim's favorite age group to teach. She passionately believes that a solid Visual Arts Education nurtures creativity and builds confidence.



**Dorothy Fortuna** is a New York certified art teacher who has taught in both the public school system and privately for many years. For the past ten years, she has been creating paintings in pastel using the world around her as inspiration. Exploring landscapes and architecture in various locations onsite and through photographic references, Dorothy crafts beautiful pieces that have been featured in galleries and private studios. Dorothy loves inspiring young students to create amazing artwork!