

# POETRY • BOOK ARTS • ILLUSTRATION • MASK MAKING

## MARIE OLOFSDOTTER • TEACHING ARTIST

My main goal when I teach is to help students express their unique visual and literary vision. I fan the creative flame while teaching craft and provide an artful, inclusive learning environment. My classes work well for students of all ages and levels of experience.

In my poetry sessions students learn how to use valuable writing tools, while being introduced to poets from around the world. I teach a fairy tale writing class using the classic story structure of the hero's journey. Inspired by Swedish folklore, *tomtar och troll*, students create original folktales rich in texture. In a curriculum titled ROOTS students explore their cultural heritage through writing and bookmaking, and create an illustrated book arts piece, a memento for years to come.

I offer several visual arts classes: book arts, illustration, and mask-making, and often combine art forms and custom design projects in support of curricular themes related to language arts, social studies, and/or STEM activities.

I am represented by COMPAS, ArtStart, The East Side Arts Council, The Loft Literary Center, Metronet Libraries, and schedule classes independently as well.

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The ROOTS books were awesome. The writing was fabulous and the illustrations are unique to every child!!! What a success.

—Jacque Cramer, Challenge Coordinator,  
Glen Lake Elementary School

I suggest taking the illustration class. I have nothing to say. I am flabbergasted!

—6th Grade Student, Creativity Festival at  
the Science Museum

Marie Olofsdotter totally engaged our students in creating their own mask personas, and then writing about them.

—Ursina Swanson, Principal, Park  
Spanish Immersion

Thanks for helping me get in touch with my feminine side. Now I can express my feelings through poetry.

—7th Grade Student, New City School

**Marie Olofsdotter** is a Swedish-born artist, who's been drawing pictures for as long as she can remember. She's never stopped being creative, and nowadays she creates books for young readers, paints, and writes poems. Her accolades include a Minnesota Book Award, a Loft Mentor Series Award in Poetry, and grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. In 2013, she created the Official Minnesota State Fair Commemorative Art. Marie has inspired young and old alike to be creative for over 25 years. She credits her work as a teaching artist to her two years in clown school in Stockholm and California because it motivated her to bring her visual and literary arts to large audiences, and she swears by the Steve Linsner quote that says, "A clown is a poet who is also an orangutang."

