

# Karen Light

1009 61<sup>st</sup> St • La Grange, IL 60525  
Karen@KarenLight.com • 708.955.4666

“When I say be creative, I don’t mean that you should all go and become great painters and great poets. I simply mean let your life be a painting, let your life be a poem.”  
-Osho

## VOCATIONAL VISION

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To use art as a tool to empower people of all ages and backgrounds to courageously seek and discover the magic within themselves so they can create meaningful, joyful lives.

## EDUCATION

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**City University London**, London, England – *Graduated with Merit* 2004-2009

- MA in Cultural Management with an emphasis on arts-for-social change organizations
- Completed a thesis asking the question, “Can integrating Community Cultural Development practices into high school Social Justice Education increase the participation of young people in transforming society?”

**Xavier University**, Cincinnati, OH – *Graduated Magna cum Laude* 1998-2002

- Bachelors in Fine Arts Degree with a Concentration in Sculpture
- Minor in Women and Minorities Studies

**Group Dynamics Education**, Brookfield, IL 2013-Present

- Dubrow and Associates
- A monthly resource group for those who work with people such as teachers and social workers

## ART EXPERIENCE

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**Visual Artist** *All My Life*

- I have made art using a variety of materials and processes including drawing, painting, sculpting and mixed media with a current focus on illustrating stories. My work has been exhibited in galleries, cafes, kids’ stores and a national traveling exhibit.

**Illustrator** *2012 to Present*

- My first illustrated book, *Jitterbugs!* was released in the fall of 2014. I am currently working on illustrations for a book called *Wings of the Heart* as well as a few other projects.

**Graphic Designer***2007 to Present*

- I create flyers, brochures, logos and other materials for non-profit organizations as well as businesses.

**Body Painter***2011-2013*

- Beauty Inside and Out was a body painting business that I founded and ran with a partner. We did private, individual sessions as well as public events.

**Studio Owner***2007 - 2010*

- Studio Light was a storefront studio that I had in the Oak Park Arts District where I created, sold and taught art to children and adults.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Founder, Teaching Artist***2014 to Present*Creative Courage Art

- Creative Courage Art is an organization I developed that uses art as a tool for empowerment for young people, adults and senior citizens.
- I currently offer a variety of programs through partnering organizations such as The Oak Park Art League, The Community House, Berwyn Park District, Brookfield Library, Pamela Penney Textile Studios and Urban Escape Healing.

**Art Teacher***August 2012 to June 2015*University of Chicago Charter School: Carter G. Woodson, Chicago, IL

- I taught ten sixth and seventh grade art classes per week as well as an elective class focusing on collaborative, beautification projects.
- Additionally, I ran two art mentoring groups each week for select students who love art and are interested in exploring deeper concepts and questions.

**Teaching Artist***April 2012 - Present*Changing Worlds, Chicago, IL

- I have taught a variety of ages and programs through placements with this organization. I am entering my second year working at Pilsen Community Academy and this year will be focused on mixed media and graphic design.

**Teaching Artist***August 2007 - Present*Urban Gateways Center for Arts Education

- I have taught in-school and after school programs and worked with children across the city ranging in age from Kindergarten through high school as well as Professional Developments for teachers.

**Teaching Artist***August 2010 - Present*Oak Park Education Foundation

- I work alongside of classroom teachers to create and implement art programs that complement the curriculum.

**Teaching Artist***July 2014*Green It Up Gift Shop

- I developed and taught a series of workshops for pre-teen children using environmentally friendly and recycled art materials.

**Workshop Leader***May 2014*University of Northern Illinois

- I led a workshop called "Getting Off the Assembly Line: Using Group Dynamics in the Middle School Classroom." This workshop engaged undergraduate education students in discussions on creative and innovative ways to build relationships with their students and engage them in creating their own positive educational experience.

**Founding Member and Teaching Artist***Summers, 2007 - Present*Oak Park Arts District Summer Arts Camps

- I was a founding member of this art camp and continue to be a teacher. It grew each summer and now includes many studios, restaurants and healing arts businesses. Students create art in real artist spaces.

**Teaching Artist***May – July 2012*Woman Made Gallery

- I was selected to be a Teaching Artist for the 20 Neighborhoods project through which I worked with senior citizen women to create art that voiced the needs they have as individuals, as a community and as a city. The work culminated in an exhibit at the gallery.

**Workshop Leader***October 2010*Grailville Retreat Center

- I led a workshop called "Containing Me" for college students and adults as this weekend retreat. Participants explored themselves as they learned how to draw self-portraits.

**Teaching Artist***July 2006 and 2007*Comfort Cottage, Camp Comfort

- Camp Comfort was an annual summer place of comfort for children ages 5-12 who were going through traumatic life experiences. I developed and taught daily art projects in order to help them process their "hard things" and find positive ways of expressing their tumultuous emotions.

**Full-Time Nanny***October 2002-June 2004*The Maguire Family, Evanston, IL

- I had sole charge of infant triplets and one sibling for whom I planned creative activities, taught basic sign language and carried out the daily activities of child rearing.

**Pre-School Teacher***May 2002-September 2002*La Petite Academy, Cincinnati, OH

- I taught three and four year olds through the La Petite Academy curriculum, art projects and games.

**Day Camp Counselor***Summers, 1999-2001*Gamble-Nippert YMCA, Cincinnati, OH

- I developed and taught art projects according to weekly themes and worked with a team to plan and carry out daily activities for children ages 5-12.

**NON-PROFIT ADMINISTRATION**

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**Development Associate and National Fundraising Events Coordinator** *April 2007-April 2012*American Friends Service Committee, Great Lakes Region, Chicago, IL (\$48,500 Salary)

- My primary duties included cultivating individual donors through the coordination of mail appeals across the four offices in the region, organization fundraising events and communicating the latest program developments to constituents.
- I designed postcards, brochures, newsletters, t-shirts, manuals and more to promote the program work to current and potential donors and partners.
- I implemented special projects including the development and execution of arts programming with the young people involved in the organization.
- Additionally, I oversaw interns and taught basics in Adobe InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop.

**AmeriCorps Intern – General Manager***August 2005-August 2006*Pendleton Heritage Center, Cincinnati, OH (Stipend)

- This was a position through the Urban Appalachian Council. I created programming by writing grants, developing and directing community arts projects, holding fundraisers, recruiting volunteers and managing daily office administration.

**AmeriCorps Intern – Tutor, Substitute, High School Art Teacher***August 2005-August 2006*East End Community Heritage School, Cincinnati, OH (Stipend)

- This was also a position through the Urban Appalachian Council. I began as a Tutor, but became a Substitute Teacher as needed and, eventually, became the High School Art Teacher developing curriculum and teaching basic art techniques.

**Program Manager Assistant***January 2005-July 2005*Pan Intercultural Arts, London, England (Unpaid internship)

- As an intern for my Master's program, I developed an educational resource pack, liaised with schools, press and funding bodies, assisted in workshops and provided administrative support to teach of people implementing arts-for-social change projects.
- My primary project was called Your Choice, Your Voice which sought to utilize forum theatre techniques to increase the participation of high school students in transforming society.

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

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- Proficient in Microsoft Office Programs
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign
- Extensive Experience using Raiser's Edge
- Experience creating and updating websites using WordPress

## EXHIBITION LIST

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- 2014** *Natural Medicine*, Solo Exhibition, Ganesha Yoga and Adventures in Fitness – Chicago, IL
- 2013** *Spring*, Group Exhibition, Life Force Arts Center – Chicago, IL  
*Natural Medicine*, Solo Exhibition, Kids Rule Toy Store – Chicago, IL
- 2012** *Windows and Mirrors*, Nationally Traveling Group Exhibit – [www.windowsandmirrors.org](http://www.windowsandmirrors.org)  
*Beauty Inside and Out*, Exhibition of Collaborative Work, The Toolbox – Iowa City, IA
- 2011** *Beauty Inside and Out*, Exhibition of Collaborative Work, Harrison Works – Oak Park, IL
- 2010** *Beauty Inside and Out*, Exhibition of Collaborative Work, Joie De Vine – Chicago, IL  
*Truthseeker*, Solo Exhibition, Loose Leaf Lounge – Chicago, IL
- 2009** *Transformation*, Juried by Sharon Schmidt, Norris Cultural Arts Center – St. Charles, IL  
*Evolving Artists*, Juried by Gabriel Akagawa and Cathie Ruggie Saunders, Beverly Arts Center – Chicago, IL
- 2007** *Some Assembly Required*, Juried by Lauren Levato, Woman Made Gallery – Chicago, IL  
*The Mind's Eye*, Group Exhibition, High Risk Gallery – Chicago, IL
- 2006** *Juried Alumni Exhibition*, Xavier University – Cincinnati, OH  
*Truths*, Solo Exhibition, Starbucks – Cincinnati, OH
- 2005** *Juried Alumni Exhibition*, Xavier University – Cincinnati, OH
- 2003** *Altering the View*, Three Person Exhibition, Riverfront Work Lofts – Chicago, IL  
*Women Artists Group Exhibition*, Last Kiss Café – Chicago, IL
- 2002** *Containing Layers*, Solo Art Thesis Exhibition, Xavier University – Cincinnati, OH  
*Emerging Artists Exhibition*, The Artery – Newport, KY

## WEBSITES

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**[www.KarenLight.com](http://www.KarenLight.com)**: Art portfolio website

**[www.JitterbugsBook.com](http://www.JitterbugsBook.com)**: Website for *Jitterbugs!*, the published children's book I illustrated

**[www.CreativeCourageArt.com](http://www.CreativeCourageArt.com)**: An organization I founded that uses art to empower people

**[www.Instagram.com/LessonsBetweenTheLessons](https://www.instagram.com/LessonsBetweenTheLessons)**: Illustrations of the silly and serious things that happen in a classroom