Biography

Ms. Gwendolyn A. Sewer born on the island of St. Thomas and lived on St. John in the US Virgin Islands where she attended the Julius E. Sprauve School, and Guy H. Benjamin Elementary School on St. John, and the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School on St. Thomas. At age fifteen the St. John School of the Arts asked her to create a greeting card which was printed for distribution, and present artworks for her first public art exhibit in Chase Manhattan Bank on St. John. That following summer she attended anatomy drawing classes in St. Thomas and watercolor classes on St. John under the guidance of artist Howard Lee “Squared “Howard of Uncertain Texas. Upon graduation she attended Claflin College now known as Claflin University, where she received a B.A. degree in Art Education. As a parting gift to the University she donated two tie died quilts that she designed and collaborated in construction with Ms. Natasha Drakeford and Ms. Shankaya Perry while taking a textiles class under the instruction of Dr. Kod Igwe. After graduation she taught Visual Arts at two of the public elementary schools on St. John in the US Virgin Islands, and in Orangeburg, South Carolina for the seven years in Orangeburg Consolidated School District Three at Holly Hill Elementary, Vance Providence Elementary and at St. James-Gaillard Elementary School. Currently she is the Visual Arts instructor at Felton Laboratory School located on the campus of South Carolina State University in Orangeburg South Carolina. Shortly after she began teaching at Felton Ms. Sewer earned her Masters’ degree in Curriculum Instruction with a specialization in the Arts from Lesley University. When she was asked her personal pedagogy about teaching art she responded by saying that, “I believe that all children can and will learn through the arts. To me art is a universal language that can be used to communicate. It reflects life, both past and present. Art helps us to bridge our complex multicultural differences we see in the world today. As a hole we cherish our differences, nourish our inherent artistic gifts, and respect our unique individual artistic uniqueness to gain insight into and share the traditions of others, because “Art is important to the development of every child.”

Ms. Sewer loves to work with various mediums, but her favorites are watercolor and acrylic paints. She likes various forms of visual expressionism and is willing to explore new ways and ideas of art production. Her art works depict personal, natural, cultural, and aesthetic experiences. She views art as a reflection of life and her life as a work of art in progress constantly evolving to greater heights.