



Alexis Macnab Projects
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Workshops

Storytelling Toys

In this series of art and craft-based workshops, broaden your perspective and encourage play in design. Topics can be offered as one or two part sessions (3-4 hours each), allowing flexibility in depth and practice.

Topic 1 - Kaleidoscopes

Derived from the Greek "kalos" meaning beautiful and "eidos" meaning shape, the kaleidoscope has been fascinating viewers for two hundred years. Learn the art and science behind the process of creating your own "beautiful shape" viewer.

- Session 1: Charm Box
- Session 2: Shadow Wheel

Topic 2 - Camera Obscuras

An ancient and fascinating tool used by physicists, painters, and camera enthusiasts, build your own camera obscura to illuminate the beautiful and strange in our everyday world.

- Session 1: Mini Obscuras
- Session 2: Larger Viewers

Topic 3 - Magazine Toy Theaters

Using found images and simple materials, let your imagination guide your exploration of the rich tradition of toy theater performance.

- Session 1: Construct Your Theater and "Fly System"
- Session 2: Create Multiple Sets and Characters

All levels welcome!

Alexis Macnab is a director, educator and creator of multi-disciplinary performance. She is also a visual artist making works in puppetry, digital and pinhole photography, collage and crafts. She has taught visual art workshops at the Skirball Center for the Arts, the Camera Obscura Building in Santa Monica (where she was Artist in Residence in 2013), Automata Arts, and The Music Center in downtown Los Angeles. Her work has received support from The Jim Henson Foundation, the CalArts Center for New Performance, the City of Santa Monica, HERE Arts Center, and NYC's chashama arts. Devoted to strengthening the muscle of imagination, Alexis makes work that challenges assumptions about form and genre in the live arts.

Alexis is Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts & Dance at Sonoma State University. Other teaching credits include the California Institute of the Arts, Oberlin College, and California State University at Long Beach.

