



# A CREATIVE TAKE ON BERKELEY LIFE

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Located at the far end of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union, near the Golden Bear Café and the Student Learning Center, the Berkeley Art Studio can be added to the list of campus organizations created, developed, and grown through student action and involvement. The Art Studio was originally founded in the late 1970s by Cal students to allow students to have a creative outlet from their regular schedule of classes, improve their artistic skills as they sought to be more well-rounded scholars, and explore different artistic disciplines. The studio grew to be incorporated into the ASUC Auxiliary, a partnership that not only allowed the studio to obtain larger floor space but also helped the studio to expand its course offerings. The first programs offered by the studio were classes in ceramics and darkroom photography; today, it continues to offer these two disciplines as well as classes in graphic design, drawing, painting, photography, and printmaking.

The Art Studio is open seven days a week, and its students constitute a cross-section of the Berkeley community; students—

both undergraduate and graduate—faculty, professional staff, and Berkeley community members can all take classes together. Though open to anyone in the area, the studio still engages with the student body and general campus through its participation in Cal Day activities and partnership with the LEAD Center. The Art Studio also hosts a Holiday Sale in the fall semester, where students of the studio have the opportunity to sell their artwork. It also partners with the ASUC Student Union to have members of the campus community make their own artwork in the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union once every month.

According to Art Studio Coordinator Ariel Berson, the 20 instructors, two ceramic technicians, student staff, and professional staff aim to fulfill the Art Studio's goal of providing high-quality art education and an art community that serves as an outlet for creativity, an opportunity for cross-generational interaction, and a chance for multi-disciplinary art creation even as the studio grows.



