

Hello! My name is Helen Rindsberg. I have been a teacher and administrator in Cincinnati, Ohio since 1972.

I love art. I have loved art since I was about four years old. I love to help other people enjoy art, too. I took my first art courses at the Cincinnati Art Museum when I was nine years old. My high school art teacher was terrific and I was blessed to be able to take art courses all four years there. By my sophomore year in high school, I knew that I wanted to be an art teacher. My training was at the University of Cincinnati where I earned Bachelor of Fine Arts (1971) and Master of Art (1972) in Art Education. I worked my way through college as a library clerk and a photographer's assistant. I was on the UC Concert Committee and created posters and took photographs of concerts and dance performances.

I taught art in junior high school for eight years then took a little detour in my career to teach economics and computer literacy before becoming an administrator. I retired as an assistant principal in 2002. Now I'm back to my first love, teaching. From 2002 - 2005 I taught art history and studio art in a special program for high school students who had academic and personal problems. I taught at the College of Mt. St. Joseph from 2006-2013 and I taught photography in the summer enrichment program at private girls high school from 2005-2018. In 2016 and 2017 I taught a semester each of Japanese Art History and Introduction to Japanese Culture.

My chosen media are photography and drawing. I built my own darkroom when I was 17, taught photography as a graduate assistant and married a photographer. My photography work since college has been on our trips around the U. S. and on our trips to Japan. I never worked as a professional photographer, but I did sell some of my work through an art gallery and have had a one-woman show in 2018. I always took photos of my students and many special projects. I took photographs to illustrate the book of short stories that I wrote (as yet unpublished) *Tokaido Adventures: Travelers and Traditions on Japan's Great Eastern Sea Road*. My current writing project is a novel, *Hiroshige: Samurai Artist*.

My husband's photography business evolved into software development. We have been married since 1972 and have no children, but we "borrow" children, the 16 Japanese college students and three teachers who have lived with us since 1989. They've stayed from six months to five years. We're close to them and they call us their "American Mama and Papa." Some of their parents have become our friends, too. Many of our Japanese children help us with the college course and meet with our students for dinners and other activities when we're in Japan. We now have twenty-five "grandchildren." We can't forget our German "daughter" who finally got us to Europe.

My husband and I travel frequently to Japan; our 2019 trip was #19. We took our three groups of College of Mount St. Joseph students from the Contemporary Japan and Its Roots course to Japan in 2008, 2010 and 2012. We visited Japan twice in 2013. In May 2016 I helped lead a group from the Cincinnati Art Museum on a ten day tour of Japan. We also traveled to Japan in 2018 and 2019.

In 2019 I won a Kaneko Award for people-to-people diplomacy from the America-Japan Society of Tokyo that included an all-expense paid trip to Japan. We traveled to Japan for the award ceremony on November 22 at International House in Tokyo. It was an amazing honor that I never expected for doing things that I love to do. I was recognized for being a home stay parent, my work with the Cincinnati Asian Art Society, Cincinnati Dayton Taiko and the Cincinnati Art Museum. Steve deserves some of the credit for all the support that he gives me.

We always visit our wonderful young Japanese children (and now their children). I have many beautiful images of Japan, its people, their temples, festivals and landscape. I also collect Japanese toys, kimonos and hanging scrolls, love Japanese gardens, and have over 200 books on Japanese art and culture. I especially love the Edo Period (1605 – 1868) and my favorite medium from this time is the woodblock print.

Since 2000 I have played Japanese traditional drums with Cincinnati Dayton Taiko and in 2010 became the director. We perform around the Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana area at festivals and private events.

I am President of the Cincinnati Asian Art Society which is a forum for sharing information and ideas among those interested in East Asian, Middle Eastern, and South and Southeast Asian art in all media. We hold about nine programs a year that includes public presentations by scholars and curators, private tours of collections of Asian art in Cincinnati, and tours of temporary museum exhibitions led by curators wherever possible. My husband and I are also members of the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati, the Japanese American Citizens League and the Gifu Cincinnati Sister Cities Association.

I have been a docent at the Cincinnati Art Museum since 2004 and lead about 45 tours a year. I thoroughly enjoy touring school groups from grades 2 - 12, college students, teachers and adults. I also serve on the committee to train the docents for upcoming special exhibits.

I grew up in College Hill and have lived in the Fairview neighborhood since 1977 (near the University of Cincinnati campus). I relax by swimming, gardening, walking and yes, of course, visiting art museums.