

# Faculty Spotlight: Allison Alford



**Allison Alford**  
**MFA - Claremont Graduate University**  
**2012 Armory Fellow**

Allison is a multi-faceted artist who has evolved her practice by co-founding Next of Kin Studio and exploring key connections between art and the natural world. Her Next of Kin Studio ([nextofkinstudio.com](http://nextofkinstudio.com)) celebrates nature by using natural dyes and inks in both wearable art and plant ink paintings. Over the years as an artist, Allison found that art making often involves toxic materials and processes. By considering nature as "next of kin", it challenges her to reconsider and evolve these processes.

Allison makes her own natural dyes and inks from foraging for plants around the Southern California region. Some plants are only accessible during certain times of the year and require networking, hiking and research to locate. This process allows for an entirely unique expression of color that's both seasonal and location specific. Her practice requires a constant study of the flora of Southern California, a reliance upon traditional cultures for guidance, a spirit of experimentation and a sustained relationship with the plants in the area. She also studies the use of traditional dyes like Indigo that come from longstanding practices dating back to around 3000 BC.

Allison also teaches Digital Photography here at the Armory (and for many years Darkroom Photography), and enjoys sharing her longstanding knowledge and expertise in that medium.

Selected Experiences and Exhibitions include *Landscape*, Monte Vista Projects; *Fig Tree and Good Medicine*, Summercamp ProjectProject; *Foraging & Natural Dye Workshop*, Malibu Orchards; *Hive Mind & Words I Know*, Coachella Valley Arts Center.



**Take an Art Class  
with Allison!**

Allison teaches classes for Teens and Adults, including **Digital Photography, Design, Dye, & Sew to Natural Dyeing & Shibori**