

FAQ Questions

1. What is The Muse ArtHouse?

The Muse ArtHouse is an art studio, gallery, and creative gym based in Closter, NJ. We encourage you to unlock your creativity and nurture your passions through a variety of artistic pursuits. We offer art classes, workshops, drop-in sessions, private lessons and events.

2. What is a 'Creative Gym'?

Just like a typical gym strengthens your body, a creative gym strengthens your **imagination, emotional wellbeing and sense of purpose**. Integrating creativity on a regular basis helps reduce stress, boost motivation and restore joy.

3. What kinds of programs do you offer?

We offer five primary types of programs:

- **Art Classes** - These are typically art courses that range between 5-8 weeks and include professional instruction and guidance. We have art classes for adults, teens and kids. During these classes, we help you build your skills, learn different techniques and methodologies and practice your art form.
- **Workshops** - Our workshops are designed to be 1.5-3 hours and you complete an art project in a single session. These workshops introduce you to an art or craft and under the guidance of an experienced instructor, we provide you with all of the materials and instructions to complete a finished work.
- **Drop-In** - Drop-in art sessions are self-guided art experiences that you choose from our Drop-in menu. Each day, during business hours, you can make a reservation for a Drop-in art experience and choose from our menu of 8+ art activities. We provide all of the materials, written instructions and you create your artwork independently.
- **Private Events** - Creative activities are the perfect way to celebrate a birthday or milestone, get together with friends or for a mom's night out. We host family celebrations, corporate events, team bonding, community groups and non-profit organizations. Any one of our workshops can be turned into a private event, at our location, or yours, or we can dream up a new activity together.
- **Private Lessons** - For individuals seeking one-on-one or small group instruction, a private lesson with one of our art teachers is a great option. We can customize the curriculum to your exact needs including art portfolio preparation or a build a personalized lesson plan to help elevate your craft.

4. Can I take an art class if I've never created art or if I don't think I'm talented?

Yes. Art is a skill, and it can be learned. You don't need experience or "natural talent" to start. In our classes, we guide you step by step in a supportive, relaxed environment, helping you build confidence and skills week by week. Many of our students start unsure and are amazed by what they create after only a few weeks in the class.

5. Which ages are appropriate for The Muse ArtHouse ?

The Muse ArtHouse offers creative experiences for **everyone from ages 2 to 102**. We have art activities designed for different age groups and interests. Feel free to contact us, and we'll be happy to guide you on which class or activity is best suited for you or your child.

6. Who can participate in classes and workshops?

Everyone is welcome! Our programs are designed for art beginners, hobbyists and experienced artists alike. **No prior art experience is required**, just curiosity and a willingness to create.

7. What types of art mediums do you offer?

We celebrate a wide range of art forms and crafts, including: Painting & Drawing, Mixed Media & Collage, Watercolor, Oil Painting, Ceramics, Resin Art, Candle-Making and more. Our offerings evolve regularly to keep creativity fresh and inspiring.

8. Do you offer [private lessons](#) or [group events](#)?

Yes! We offer private lessons, birthday celebrations, corporate team-building, family workshops, and special group events. Custom experiences can be tailored to your needs.

9. What kind of art activity can I do with my family?

You can either schedule a **private family event** or join us for a **drop-in session** with your family. We've had **three generations creating together**, making meaningful connections and lasting memories.

Resin FAQ

1. What is Resin?

Resins are viscous (thick and sticky), liquid polymers derived from organic or synthetic sources. They have the ability to transition from a liquid into a customisable solid, homogeneous structure. Resin comes in many forms.

An example of an organic resin is when plants secrete resins for their protective benefits in response to injury. The resin protects the plant from insects and pathogens. A clear example of the longevity and durability of resin is the encapsulation of insects in amber. Many of these naturally occurring resins have practical uses today and equivalents have been manufactured from petrochemicals.

Polymers themselves are substances comprised of a built-up structure of a large number of similar units bonded together. Classic examples of synthetic polymers include resins and plastics.

There are two main types of resin: thermosetting and thermoplastic resin. Thermoplastic Resins require heat and pressure to create a finished material.

In our studio, we use thermoset resins - specifically, epoxy resin. Epoxy resins include the resin and a hardener (or catalyst) that react chemically after mixing to form a solidified structure once cured.

Epoxy resins contribute to the strength, durability and chemical resistance of a composite. They offer high performance at elevated temperatures, with hot/wet service temperatures up to 121°C.

2. What type of Epoxy Resin do you use?

In our studio, student safety is paramount. There are many different types of resins on the market but we only utilize the brands and formulations with the highest safety standards for art and hobbyist use. Not all resins are alike! You must understand the safety ratings and proper usage guidelines for any resin that you use.

We primarily use [ArtResin](#) and [CraftResin](#) epoxy resins. We specifically look for three traits:

- Non-toxic
- VOC-free
- Food-safe

Why are these traits important?

Non-Toxic

ArtResin and Craft Resin are non-toxic when used as directed. This means that if you follow the instructions for use, there is no cause for concern or risk to one's health. ArtResin and Craft Resin products have been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials; Both conform to [ASTM D4236: Safe for Home Use](#). This is unique for an [epoxy resin](#), as most formulas require warning labels to let users know the product is poisonous, carcinogenic and/or hazardous to the environment. Craft Resin's clear epoxy resin has successfully passed REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals) testing, ensuring its compliance with safety regulations. The resin is formulated using the highest quality materials and does not contain any Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). This means that it does not emit any harmful fumes or give off any toxic chemicals during the curing process.

VOC-Free (Volatile Organic Compounds)

VOCs are chemical compounds that easily evaporate into the air due to their high vapor pressure. When these compounds become airborne and are inhaled, they can cause harm to human health. To ensure safety, ArtResin has undergone extensive testing conducted by board-designated toxicologists, and test results confirm that the resin and

hardener (on their own, or while being mixed or during curing) produces no fumes or VOCs.

Food Safe

An epoxy resin is considered food safe when migration testing demonstrates that the fully cured product is chemically inert and does not leach substances into food upon contact. Some epoxy resin formulas contain solvents and non-reactive diluents to stretch the materials, which can release out of the product and into food, posing health risks if ingested. ArtResin has been tested against 13 different worldwide food safety standards, and has successfully passed each one, ensuring its safety for use with food. Craft Resin is its ability to create food-safe surfaces. Once Craft Resin is fully cured and hardened, your resin project can be used safely as a food contact surface. This means you can confidently create stunning resin serving trays, coasters, and other food-related items without worrying about any harmful substances leaching into your food.

3. Do You Use UV Resin? Is it the same as Epoxy Resin?

UV resin is not the same as Epoxy Resin. It is also a thermosetting resin but it cures with the introduction of a UV lamp. We use UV Resin primarily for small projects such as trinket dishes, keychains and jewelry. UV resin is considered toxic in its liquid (uncured) form and should be handled with care. Once it is fully cured, it becomes much more stable and generally safe to touch, but there are still important limitations.

When working with UV resin, we take specific precautions to avoid contact dermatitis, sensitivity issues and respiratory irritation from fumes that can occur. These precautions include:

- wearing nitrile gloves
- working in a ventilated space
- avoiding touching uncured resin
- avoiding breathing fumes directly

Once fully cured under a UV lamp, it becomes hard and mostly inert and safe to touch and handle. It is not considered food safe and it should not be used on items that touch food or drinks.

4. Is Epoxy Resin Safe?

The Muse ArtHouse prioritizes customer safety and satisfaction. We do our utmost to create a safe environment for our students and utilize the safest materials available for the projects, classes and workshops we offer. As mentioned above, we choose epoxy resins that are non-toxic, VOC-free and food-safe in our studio. We also have masks, respirators, gloves and other safety equipment available. In addition, we provide adequate ventilation in the workshop so that you can protect yourself and enjoy a safe crafting experience.

However, it is important to know that with every activity, there are some risks. Some people may develop an allergic reaction or sensitization to epoxy resins. We are committed to providing you an amazing crafting experience without compromising your health. Remember to follow the recommended safety guidelines, wear personal protective equipment, and consult a medical professional if you experience any abnormal symptoms.