



Distinguished Alumni - 2026

Lynne (Maschka) Adele

Class 1972

When Lynne was a student at ALHS, she gravitated toward classes in art, photography, and creative writing, and to the school's esteemed humanities program — her introduction to the interconnectedness of history, culture, philosophy, & the creative arts. After graduating in 1972, she planned to pursue an art degree with a concentration in photography, but in an art history course at what is now Riverland Community College, she found her future path.

She's also had a lifelong passion for music, especially folk and progressive country, and has been singing and playing guitar since junior high. Her move to Austin, Texas in the late 70s was inspired in part by the city's legendary music scene as well as its world-class

university. She earned BFA and MA degrees in art history at The University of Texas at Austin, specializing in the work of self-taught/"outsider" artists, and then worked for 15 years as a museum educator in the university's art museum. In this role, she worked closely with students, faculty, volunteer docents, and visitors of all ages, planning and implementing educational programs, and writing and editing interpretive materials for the museum's collections and exhibitions. She curated two exhibitions for the museum, *Black History/Black Vision: The Visionary Image in Texas* (1989), and *Spirited Journeys: Self-Taught Texas Artists of the Twentieth Century* (1997), writing the catalogs for both exhibitions and producing an award-winning video documentary for *Black History/Black Vision*. These projects, along with numerous scholarly articles and lectures, established her reputation in the field.

After leaving the museum, she worked for nearly a decade at a commercial art gallery that promoted the work of self-taught artists, while continuing to write independently. The gallery had deep ties to Austin's music scene and was "ground zero" for unofficial live music shows during the annual SXSW music festival. At one of these events in 2008, she met singer/songwriter Stephen Canner. Joined by violinist Stefan Keydel, they founded an acoustic Americana trio, The Victor Mourning, playing many shows during the next several years and releasing an album in 2010.

By this time, Lynne's creative partnership with Stephen had blossomed, and the two were married later that year. Taking a break from Austin, they spent seven years in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee, where Lynne researched and wrote the groundbreaking book *As Above, So Below: Art of the American Fraternal Society, 1850—1930* with Texas collector Bruce Webb; renowned musician David Byrne wrote the book's foreword. Published by University of Texas Press in 2015, it's now in its third printing.

Lynne and Stephen returned to Texas in late 2018, and the band reunited, renamed Swarme of Beese to reflect the songwriting duo's transition to a more folk-flavored sound. They've since released four albums. Lynne is still an avid photographer, and looking through the lens of time and distance, she can see her academic interests first coming into focus at ALHS — where she received a solid foundation for her future success, and the spark was ignited that led to her life's work in the arts and humanities.