

# Cherie Mittenenthal



*Executive Director of  
Truro Center for the Arts  
at Castle Hill*

The Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill in Truro, Massachusetts, offers workshops in

painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, video, writing, and other subject areas for adults and children. Cherie Mittenenthal is responsible for managing the center's many activities. She is also a painter who works in encaustic.

### ***Can you say why you pursued your career?***

I love organizing arts and educational programs, and I'm also a working artist. I enjoy working with people—from teachers to students to community members.

### ***What qualities did you bring to your work that contributed to your later success?***

I am good with people, good at organizing, good at listening, and also being an artist brings a different perspective.

### ***What professional advice would you offer aspiring high school students?***

Follow your heart. Do something that is meaningful to you. Be honest and fair. Do something that you love.

### ***Describe a typical work day for you.***

The majority of work is planning. Planning for summer, planning events, planning meetings, going to meetings. I answer a lot of questions all day long. I take lots of pictures of students making art. Summer

is crazy. There are over 100 workshops, gallery openings every other week, a lecture series, many parties and a big art auction.

### ***What are the most challenging aspects of your work?***

Raising money. Creating an interesting and a new and exciting curriculum every year. Keeping my desk clean.

### ***What characteristics do you believe are absolutely necessary for your profession?***

Being good with people. Being able to juggle many things at the same time. Sense of humor.

### ***What do you love about your field?***

I love being in the arts. I am an artist. Not many executive directors are also artists; it's usually the other side of the brain.



Fig. 1–38. Cherie Mittenenthal, *Harbor with Bees*, 2011. Encaustic on panel, 16" x 20" (41 x 51 cm). Courtesy of the artist.

## Web Links

Learn about Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill:  
[www.castlehill.org](http://www.castlehill.org)

See more examples of Cherie Mittenenthal's work:  
[cheriemittenenthal.com](http://cheriemittenenthal.com)

## Career Opportunities

Make a plan to visit the closest arts center in your area with your students. Ask them to write down and sketch observations about the building and interior spaces. They should also record the types of offerings that are available through the center (classes, art openings, etc.) in their journals. They could develop a list of questions about the center for the executive director (such as where they get their funding or how they decide on what to offer at the center) and additional questions for an artist who is either showing or teaching there (such as describing the relationship he or she has with the center). As a class, whittle down the list to five questions to send to either person connected with the center.