

# Petra Soesemann

Class of 1971

Petra Soesemann, an art professor as well as chair of the first year foundation program at the Cleveland Institute of Art, graduated from Wooster High School, Class of 1971.

She said she has always been interested in the arts and knew, as early as grade school, that she wanted to pursue some type of art career.

Soesemann notes her parents supported everything she wanted to do that had anything to do with art.

“My interest in art was supported from all sides,” Soesemann said. She appreciated the liberal arts range of courses she took and said she really liked learning about literature, science, math and history. “All of those things really gave me a grounding,” Soesemann said, also noting she uses this grounding in her art.

A liberal arts range of courses not only includes the core courses but also allows for electives. Soesemann stated, “I was co-editor of the yearbook. I totally loved that opportunity... I learned a lot about photography and editing and how you work with a team of people and creative design ideas. We put all the seniors in astrological order instead of alphabetical.”

It all comes back, one way or another, to Wooster High School. As Soesemann said, it was a great school with good teachers and a broad range of courses that let her pursue her own interests while learning at the same time.

— Maeve Florence Smith, *student interviewer*



***“I believe wholeheartedly in the power of education. Education is not just about preparing oneself for a job. Broad-based education is about preparing oneself to be an informed and engaged citizen of the world.”***