Julian Hensarling
Food Stylist, New York, NY
Austin Montessori School, 1987-1993

“What can I say, I make the food for TV commercials, movies, consumer packaging and magazines such as Bon Appetite, Food & Wine, Town & Country etc. I also work with clients to develop recipes, and other culinary and creative development.” That is how Austin Montessori alumnus Julian Hensarling describes the interesting, creative work that he does now. (You can check out his work here.)

Julian spent the entirety of his elementary school years at AMS (1st through 6th grade), where he remembers the chicken coop, and “the greenhouse got tossed during the storm.” From AMS he moved onto St. Stephens for a year, and then on to Park City, Utah, where he finished high school. He earned his BFA in Printmaking from the University of Utah, his MFA in Printmaking from Indiana University, and studied at Scuola Internazionale De Grafica in Venice Italy. Julian explains how training in printmaking evolved into food design:

“While studying and working as an artist I was always drawn to my surroundings by the food and stories of those around me. After moving to New York City, I began to work at restaurants including as the sous chef at the Brooklyn based Fort Defiance. I came to my career of Food Styling rather serendipitously, and have found it to be an interesting match for my two passions. It is a creative yet process driven job, that allows me to travel and use many of the experiences I have had throughout my life, and the opportunity to work with a diverse and creative group of people. In a way I feel like Austin Montessori was the genesis of my pluralism; to foster intention to deeply engage the things that I have found interesting, creative, and important.

Julian also observes that many of his AMS classmates have followed their passions in a variety of diverse places and ways, something he attributes to “the way Austin Montessori allowed us the space to engage with our passions, and the structure to truly engage with them.”

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