

Cassandra Reilly, Guest Tutor in the Common Arts & Leatherworking

Cassandra Reilly attended the London College of Fashion for Womenswear and Cultural Studies from 2006-2009, as well as the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City from 2009-2011. During this time and after, she developed a corpus of research collected from her travels in Belgium, France, Italy, and Ireland; and in 2011 began private lessons in Hungary with Master Cordwainer Marcell Mrsán, as well as in



the United States with Brett Walker. In 2021, she began a formal shoemaking apprenticeship with Mr. Walker, and has conducted her studies under two apprenticeship study grants (2022-2023 and 2024-2025) from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Council for the Arts.

Since 2014, Ms. Reilly has lived on, restored, and worked a 40-acre [*locus amoenus*](#) of what was once an operating ornamental tree nursery near Worthington, PA, north of Pittsburgh. As owner of [*Benedictine Farm*](#), she has intentionally made it open and welcoming to the public for visiting, learning, and simply spending a quiet moment with God amidst His canvas. Mazes of trees have been left for walking paths, whilst seven acres have been dedicated to a working farm containing historically-inspired gardens,

timber-framed buildings, a chicken and honeybee meadow, an acre-sized pond teeming with wildlife, songbirds inhabiting flowering trees, and a commercial-sized greenhouse for growing potted herbs and flowers sold by the farm. A 17th-Century-inspired, timber-framed barn houses Cassandra's private art studio, from which she operates her business [*Pastorum Carmina*](#), designing and making historically-inspired women's garments, shoes, and accessories. The barn and the farm will both eventually host classes conducted by The Fellowship of Arts & Mysteries.

Cassandra, her husband Adam, and two sons are avid readers, and Adam is an accomplished woodworker and carpenter. She plays the lute a little, having studied with Michael Calvert (of Chatham Baroque fame) and enjoys painting. And on any summer evening, the family is likely to be in the kitchen, cooking food from their farm.