

Level Ground: A Stow Celebration of Women in Arts 2023 Artist Biographies

Katrina Botimer is a lifelong resident of Summit County, raised in Munroe Falls, Ohio, and was a Stow Bulldog when Munroe Falls wasn't included in the name. Bruce is her husband, and they're both animal and nature lovers. They own a business daily, and she usually creates art in the evenings.

Katrina doesn't paint from pictures to duplicate them. She chooses a couple of colors and maybe gesso or molding paste and says, "Ok, let's see what happens." That's especially true when using the technique of acrylic pouring.

Katrina has said, "It feels like I'm only the vehicle for the art to reveal itself. I move the paint around, merging colors and turning the canvas upside down to see if something interesting appears. But, just like that, I may quickly abandon it and grab another piece before I screw it up. Maybe it's supposed to be done; that's part of the painting's story. In two hours, I might touch five to six paintings in different stages in the studio."

Each piece has a personality. She has said that she has an emotional relationship with each painting and has even been mad at paintings because they...just...won't...click into place.

Katrina enjoys the process as much as finishing a piece of artwork. It provides her with so much joy, and she also wants to insert art into the world that people will enjoy or make them feel something.

Carlina Croston is an artist from Silver Lake, Ohio. Her primary medium is acrylic and watercolor. Carlina rediscovered her passion for painting and art in general in 2020. Art has always played a role in her life from crochet to paint and cross-stitch.

Carlina enjoys spending as much time as possible in nature and amongst plants which is reflected in the majority of her work.

In her downtime she enjoys spending her days with her daughter and dog in the CVNP or kayaking on the many lakes and rivers in the area.

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Lavonne Fawcett has always loved art, creating, and coloring outside the lines. Taking cues from nature by bringing the beauty of outdoors to be enjoyed all year around. Utilizing vibrant colors and unique designs to create gardens, flowers, trees, and even fish! Her designs are created within old repurposed windows, window screens, with melted glass, crushed glass, fused glass, metal, wire, stones, seashells, beads, baskets, and much more.

Care Hanson is a visual artist with an eclectic practice that includes acrylic on canvas, altered book art journals, mixed media on cardboard, nature mandalas and hand stitching. She thrives on color exploration, using intuition and a spirit of 'just try'.

Art play is her daily habit and way of life. You can follow Care's creative journey on Instagram@carehanson

Town and Country Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America was founded in Stow in 1974. Town and Country has always met in Stow, first at the Stow Library and now at the Stow City Center. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month except for December.

Town and Country has 32 members from Summit County. National wide Embroiderers' Guild has 8,800 members. Purpose of the Embroiderers' Guild is to preserve and promote the needle arts.

As a chapter, Town and Country stitches samplers for new homeowners with Habitat for Humanity, donated a stitched Christmas wreath to the Akron Children's Hospital Tree Festival, is part of the yearly Akron Library arts organization festival, and this year demonstrated at Barlow Farm Harvest Festival.

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Victoria Ganey is 17 years old and a Junior at Stow-Munroe Falls High School. Victoria started getting into art when she was in middle school. She had an amazing art teacher who really inspired her to keep pushing herself when it came to her art work.

Victoria still love art so much that she makes sure every school year to have at least one art class, including classes such as painting and ceramics. She loves making art that makes people have to think about what they are looking at or wonder what different things it could be.

Cris Hertle was born in Mexico City and has been making ceramic creations for about 17 years.

Cris' favorite Mexican tradition is " Dia de los Muertos" Day of the dead, and a big part of her art is a reflection of this tradition.

Kelly Jaminet is the owner, designer and artist behind The Felt Macaron, LLC. She is a native of Ohio and resides in Stow. Kelly returns for the 2023 Exhibit featuring her felt flowers and a few fancy felt confections. Her floral art has expanded into working with Italian Crepe Paper this year. Her designs are clearly inspired by texture, nature and sweets and her attention to detail is amazing. She is a retired graphic designer and enjoys growing her English Roses and entertaining friends and family. Follow Kelly and The Felt Macaron on Facebook and Instagram.

Allison Laughlin is an acrylic painter who enjoys the colorful beauties of life. This past June, she recently "retired" from the hair industry. Allison had formal hairstyles published in bridal magazines and has been recognized from a few of the industry's top companies on Instagram for my work, along with worldwide creative color competitions.

Allison is a school bus driver for Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools. She started taking photographs on field trips. Some of those are inspiration on her paintings. She enjoys painting when she has free time in her busy life with her two daughters and three dogs, Bailey, Willow and Maggie.

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Pam Nicodemus is a fluid artist. Some of her favorite things to use are canvas, wood, slate, glass, ceramic, acrylic paint and epoxy.

Pam's goal is color and function. She also likes to repurpose items. Her company name is pam's_pour's and can be found on Facebook and Instagram. Pam's email is pamnicodemus@gmail.com.

Jackie Palumbo truly believes in healing the mind and heart through creativity, and love to express herself through different mediums including fused glass, abstract, and mixed media. The role of art in her life brought her to become a Certified Meditation and Mindfulness Instructor. Jackie then took her training and passion for art and carefully tailored and designed Mindfulness Art & Meditation workshops for kids, teens, adults, families, and businesses. Each session helps participants embrace a creative mind and a peaceful heart while practicing non-judgment, self-acceptance, and being in the present moment.

Jackie's journey also includes substitute teaching and conducting various art clubs, classes, and camps, selling at art and craft shows throughout Northeast Ohio and at some local galleries, and conducting free community events to make greeting cards for the soldiers and veterans.

Laura Rath is a lifelong lover of art, impressionism, and thickly laid oil paint on a canvas. She is drawn to bold colors, and fascinated by the process of using brushes and palette knives to create rich texture in her art. Additionally, she enjoys creating simple black and white ink sketches and colorful watercolor art. Laura paints most of her landscape and cityscape scenes from personal experiences, and many of her pieces have been inspired by travels throughout Europe. Many of her paintings have been based on her own photographs, and she loves doing commissioned work that allows her to transform the photographs of others into meaningful art for their walls!

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Kathleen Raumberger has been a Stow resident since 2016. As a poor college student, she was looking for ways to be able to give gifts to everyone important in her life and finally settled on painting wine glasses. After making a few sets she discovered that she really enjoyed the whole process. Gifting sets led to people asking to buy sets, which in turn led to setting up at vendor events. This encouragement and support fueled her passion, encouraged her to experiment with so many new and different mediums and styles, and has excited her to see exactly what she can learn and accomplish.

When she isn't at work or creating, you'll find her hiking, camping, floating the river, spending time with her friends and family, and cheering on her children at their soccer games.

Georgi Rancour is proud to be a born and raised north-east Ohioan. She studied art in Italy and The Netherlands and is a professional commissioned artist.

Georgi has a Master's degree in Educational Technology and has taught all grades pre-school through grad school. She is the mother of 4 adult daughters and loves to travel as much as possible.

Tarisa Schindler was born in Akron, Ohio and has lived in Stow all of her life. She is a tenth grader at Stow-Munroe Falls High School. In school she is interested in the STEM field but also loves to draw, make crafts, and take photos.

Tarisa is a member of the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Orchestra where she plays the violin. She has also been playing the piano for six years now. At thirteen, she started to get into photography and entered and won a photography contest at the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. In 2021, she won third place at the state level in the PTA Reflections program. Tarisa loves to travel and see new places as it gives her a chance to take interesting photos.

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Nirali Schrader is an Asian Indian born artist who moved to America in 2007 to earn a double Master's degree in Education. Teaching in classrooms helped Nirali realize that she wanted to continue to instruct and inspire but in a more creative capacity. She started her own business, Akron Henna Art, with her inspiration from the city where she completed her education and launched her career. The specialty medium of choice is henna, a plant-based dye native to her India and appreciated around the world for its ability to temporarily stain the skin to make beautiful body art. Nirali helps to share the healing properties of henna through her non-profit Henna Crown Art which gives another layer of beauty to courageous people who are fighting cancer. She also leads art classes online on behalf of Access the Arts, a non-profit, with the Medina Juvenile Center to share a new artistic expression with kids so they can learn to how to create works of art under her guidance.

Nirali's most recent public recognition came from the Mayor of Stow who recognized her work in part with 15 others who donated custom works of art that adorn and beautify light boxes at intersections around the city. For this gallery, Nirali chose to incorporate her cultural henna-style design work using new mediums of acrylic, alcohol ink, paint markers and water colors on canvas and wood. This art represents Nirali's inner growth and experiences as an artist which she feels is an actual healing experience via the colors and media used.

Sara Sinex is a 2007 graduate of Kent State University with a degree in public relations. Sara began her professional career at an advertising and public relations firm in Cleveland, Ohio. Her interest in photography started at an early age, attending the Cleveland National Air Show with her film camera to capture photos of the military aircraft as they performed their tactical demonstrations.

Mostly self-taught in photography, she looks for the beauty in every season, enjoying the many species that frequent the parks and even her own backyard – being especially drawn to birds. Sara also acts as the team photographer for her son's Stow Youth Football & Cheerleading team, enjoying capturing the action and providing still-frame moments for other parents.