

// ABOUT THE ARTISTS with open studios

Marisa Cook (McCafferty Academy of Irish Dance)

www.mccaffertyacademy.weebly.com

ARTIST STATEMENT: At the McCafferty Academy of Irish Dance (MAID), dancers compete at Regional, National and World Championships. Through competition and performances, our dancers make everlasting friendships, learn the value of hard work and how to work well with a team. Whether you are interested in moving to the infectious Irish music, or hope to pursue a competitive career, MAID is the place to be!



Jennifer Cox Coleman (Jennifer Cox Coleman Fine Art)

ARTIST STATEMENT: Bringing life to a blank canvas with the use of color never stops delighting me. For someone to want ownership of one of my paintings is inspirational. Our world is full of beauty to be permanently captured with the use of paint, brushes, a creative mindset and that blank canvas. Art is a daily passion!



Susan Goldner (Creative Art Studio)

ARTIST STATEMENT: Eight artists share studio space, creating abstract and realistic works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and pastel. The artists are: Vickie Hendrix-Siebenmorgen, Glenyce Feeney, Roy Crawford, Sharon Holt Carter, Liz Lucker, Mary Anne Garnett, Sage Arnold and Susan Goldner.



Amanda Heinbockel

ARTIST STATEMENT: I am an art teacher at Little Rock Central High. In my own work I focus primarily on jewelry making and abstract watercolors.



Susie Henley (Co-Op Art) (www.facebook.com/co.opartlittlerock)

ARTIST STATEMENT: We are a cooperative of eight artists, Patty & Herb Monoson, Scotty Shively, Suzanne Brugner, Susie Henley, Dee Schulten, Dr. Lacy Fraiser, and Glenda Josephson. In this location and together for over four years, we represent painting styles and media including oil on canvas, watercolor, acrylic, pastels, drawing, alcohol ink, and metal.



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Joe Joyner (The Little Rock Violin Shop) (www.littlerockviolinshop.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: The Little Rock Violin Shop (LRVS) is Arkansas's superior source for the rental, sales, repair, and making of bowed string instruments. LRVS is home to three distinguished craftsmen who execute the making of new instruments and the repair and restoration of antique instruments with exacting detail. Bow repairs and restorations are performed by LRVS owner, Joe Joyner. Joe also plays viola in the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and Little Rock String Quartet. Meticulous by nature, Joe enjoys the intricacies of bow work. His goal is to make bows work for the player while preserving and restoring them for future generations.



Daniella Napolitano (www.daniellanapolitano.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: I use my aesthetic appreciation of wildlife to deepen my ecological appreciation and understanding of them. I compare my process to looking through an encyclopedia or field guide and reading about the pictures you find interesting. I choose an animal and begin researching what impact that animal has on its environment and how it is viewed in today's society. I use this research to exaggerate the details I find most thought-provoking, allowing the viewer to gain a different or nuanced perspective, based on biological fact, of the subject matter. If the viewer learns something from my work, I consider it a successful piece. I focus on anatomical accuracy over drawing generalized figures that represent animals, often referencing dozens of source photos at a time. Having this kind of clarity in my research informs the clarity of my precise line work in my prints. I create bold lines and shapes to make striking compositions and use fine details to draw the viewer in. For me, this close attention to my subject matter takes my work from an aesthetic appreciation of these animals to an appreciation of them biologically and ecologically. By examining the relationship between various animal species and their surroundings, my work pushes the viewer toward a greater awareness of the ecological relation between man, animal, and environment.



Jenn Perren (Jenn Perren Studio) (www.jenniferperren.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: In 2014 Jenn Perren received her BFA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she studied printmaking, figurative drawing and painting. She maintains her drawing practice which allows her to continue to study the human figure and produce expressive and stylized illustrations. In 2016 she began to explore the medium of clay and since then she has been practicing ceramics at the Arkansas Arts Center Museum School. She focuses on functional hand built ceramics that incorporate her interests in the figure.



Catherine Rodgers (Catherine Rodgers Contemporary Art)

(www.catherinerodgers.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: What keeps me coming to the studio virtually seven days a week is the exploration of art and the problem solving that results from experimenting with new mediums. Lately I have fallen in love with epoxy resin. The glass-like translucency of resin mixed with oil paint and tint is magical. Painting is still the mainstay of my art practice and I always will return to the canvas and brush. I am grateful for my collectors who hold hundreds of my works in their private and business collections.



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Liz Smith (Liz Smith's Ceramic Studio) (www.lizsmithceramics.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: Liz is an associate professor of art teaching ceramics at UCA. She makes both functional and sculptural work unified by a love of complex surfaces and decorative patterning. Her aesthetics are inspired by European porcelains of the 19th century. Liz has received a McKnight Artist Residency at the Northern Clay Center and her work has been featured in magazines and books such as Ceramics Monthly and Surface Decoration Techniques.



Michael Warrick (www.michaelwarrick.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: I am a maker of objects and monumental public art that express elements of our humanity. These works produced in bronze, steel, stone, concrete, wood and clay serve different purposes in the public and private sectors. They may commemorate a historical event, celebrate whimsy or bring attention to a societal concern for debate, appreciation and contemplation.



Elizabeth Weber (www.mysoulspath.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: In Japan, they have a tradition, called Kintsugi. They fix broken pottery with a lacquer resin mixed with precious metals. Instead of disguising the breakage, Kintsugi restores it, making it a beautiful and visible part of that object's history. Taking this idea into some of my pieces, I intentionally caused some areas of the paint to crack. In these areas, the paint is thick to represent scar tissue. I strive to create a vibrancy through my use of color; an enveloping experience that washes over the viewer and draws them in to the work. I paint from my heart hoping to touch the soul of the viewer and fill them with lush colors, rich textures, and thought provoking imagery.



Valerie Wingert (South Main Creative) (www.southmaincreative.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: South Main Creative, located in historic SoMa, is home to over 30 artists, some well-known and others who have never shown in a traditional gallery setting. But we certainly aren't a traditional gallery! SMC puts an urban twist on the traditional antique mall with authentic antiques, vintage items, local art and artisan made goods. We are also a creative space offering fun art, craft, and DIY classes! We are proud to offer a variety of local art and artisan-made items including painting, sculpture, illustration, pottery, collage, photography, assemblage, metal work, jewelry, weaving, fused and stained glass, mosaics, woodworking, sculptural furniture, and textile arts. On June 2, Dani Ives of Be Good Natured will be teaching two Painting With Wool workshops, one from 1-4 PM and one from 5:30-8:30 PM in one of our classrooms which will provide visitors the opportunity to observe a group creative process.



// ABOUT THE ARTISTS at the Alternative Space

Mary Nancy Henry (MNHenry Artwork) (www.mnhenry-artwork.com)

ARTIST STATEMENT: Painting is a journey that I enjoy sharing. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe states, "A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul."



Glenda McCune (Paintings by Glenda McCune)

ARTIST STATEMENT: Art to me is my personal avenue of depicting my inner emotions, expressions, experiences and thoughts in a creative and unique style. I like to utilize the principles and elements of art in my work by making them strong in balance and composition. My passion is drawn to scenes that depict southern culture. For example, people picking cotton, old cotton gins, barns, and people hanging clothes on the line. I also like to focus on southern activities such as fishing, baptismal, shotgun houses, and out houses. I enjoy taking my viewers on a walk down memory lane. I want to leave an imprint on the art community and the future generations to show them what it was like, back in my day.



Sheri Simon (www.facebook.com/gallerysheri)

ARTIST STATEMENT: I love to create! My most recent mediums are acrylic, watercolor and mixed media. I love color! I like to create paintings from my photographs either local or from trips. My paintings tend to be bright and I have no one "style" or theme; just whatever strikes me at the moment! My latest endeavor is handmade greeting cards; trying to help revive the lost art of actually mailing a card to someone special.



Judy Thompson (Jericho Way Resource Center Art Class)

(www.facebook.com/jerichowaylittlerock)

ARTIST STATEMENT: The Jericho Way Resource Center opened on May 1, 2013, and is jointly funded by the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock. The Resource Center was established to identify and provide resources and services for those in need with the ultimate goal of transitioning the clients out of homelessness. An official Art Program was introduced in February. The class meets every Thursday from 9:15-10:15 and the class drives what they do and learn.



Michael Ward

ARTIST STATEMENT: My art for the last 20 years has led me to believe that the general public is overwhelmed with the mundane slap together in an hour and sell artwork. Most art today lacks subject matter. Viewers walk away wondering, what the hell was I looking at? My subject matter is iconography, blazonry, the elements, relevant to everyone! My internal patience and diligence has led to well thought out and researched works of art. They are very tedious at times which leads me to believe that the viewers today are looking for something more than Gustav Klimt's "The Kiss." In Escher style, my art leaves viewers wanting to look for some things they may have missed, and how'd he do that? The mats are also contributors to the overall piece of art. The glass is also etched to enhance the overall viewing experience.



// CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Arkansas Arts Center (www.arkansasartscenter.org)

The Arkansas Arts Center is an art museum and active center for the visual and performing arts. Featuring a world-class international collection of art, live theatre productions, art classes, lectures, films, family programs, shopping and dining, the Arkansas Arts Center offers something for everyone. Programs are supported in part by the City of Little Rock, The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.



ESSE Purse Museum (www.essepursemuseum.com)

One of only three purse museums in the world, ESSE Purse Museum & Store is the culmination of owner Anita Davis' dream of exploring concepts of art, history, and the feminine. The name ESSE comes from the Latin infinitive for "to be," which embodies what visitors will find in the museum: that a purse is not just a utilitarian bag in which a woman carries her necessities, but an extension of her personal space, her essence, and of the things that make her "her." Visitors will discover that the choice of purse tells much about the woman and her evolving position in the public sphere. "You May Kiss the Bride" exhibit features vintage wedding dresses from 1900-1980.



Historic Arkansas Museum (www.historicarkansas.org)

Historic Arkansas Museum invites you to come in and step back into Arkansas frontier history. Tour the museum's historic grounds and visit a pre-civil war neighborhood, including the oldest home still standing in Little Rock and the site where William Woodruff once printed the Arkansas Gazette. Interact with a living history character and see first-hand how early residents lived. Inside the Museum Center, explore Arkansas made art and artifacts in four exhibit galleries, see contemporary Arkansas art in the Trinity Gallery, and watch kids having fun in the interactive children's gallery. Shop for quilts and other contemporary crafts in the Museum Store, and see the award-winning introductory video in the theater.



Mosaic Templars Cultural Center (www.mosaictemplarscenter.com)

The mission of the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center is to preserve, interpret and celebrate African American history and culture in Arkansas. The museum's exhibits highlight fraternal organizations, African American entrepreneurs as well as integration. Beyond just exhibits, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center provides lesson plans and outreach programs for students and teachers. "Arkansas Divine 9: An Exhibit of Arkansas's African American Greek Letter Organizations" is Mosaic Templars Cultural Center's first community-curated exhibit. The MTCC also includes six permanent exhibits.



Old State House Museum (www.oldstatehouse.com)

The Old State House Museum is the original state capitol of Arkansas. In 1947, it was made a museum by acts of the Arkansas legislature, a status it has enjoyed ever since. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997. The Old State House continues to play a vital role in preserving, sharing, and celebrating the history of Arkansas and its people. To mark the 80th anniversary of the Miss Arkansas Pageant, the Old State House Museum is currently partnering with the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant to host a collection of dresses worn by past Miss Arkansas winners.

