

# EDEN ALERED EXHIBITION

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### LINDA HALL

#### Artist Bio

Linda Hall is a mixed media artist from Tallahassee Florida. Her work is often soft sculpture that is comprised of repurposed textiles, paper mache and found materials. These works are engaged in public performances as well as gallery walls. She holds an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work is in public and private collections around the world. Her two and three dimensional works have also been featured in numerous publications such as Oxford American, Raw Vision , New American Paintings and Five Point literary journal. She also creates public projects such as concerts, plays, processions and parades. She currently makes her home in Tallahassee, Florida, where she maintains a studio in the historic Smoky Hollow section of town.

#### Artist Statement

Rebirth and death happen simultaneously. I explore this duality in the smaller "Fecundity Patches" (the individual fabric wall pieces) and the larger assemblage wall installations that are in this exhibition. The evidence that these pieces are made by hand is important to the work. The forms are often made from repurposed quilts, needlework and dresses that have their own history, a history of women's artistry which is a tribute to generations of women in family. The ferocity and beauty of the nature in this area are an inspiration. The shapes, colors and details of plants competing for resources epitomize the unique character of our environment. The rare carnivorous plant bogs in Sumatra illustrate the wild and almost surreal lengths to which life will go to sustain itself. The large installations relate to the ephemeral aspects of all of life. The large flowers at their height of bloom, empty animal figures and sculptures of extinct birds express my disquiet at the transience of all living things. In combination, these elements of visual experience speak to our interconnectedness in the age of environmental catastrophe.

### DIMELZA BROCHE

#### Artist Bio

Dimelza is a Cuban-American artist residing in Jacksonville, Florida. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida and a Master's degree from the University of Georgia. Broche has exhibited her work at Manifest Gallery, Marcia Wood Gallery, Era Contemporary Gallery, The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens, and at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, Washington, DC. And most recently one of her paintings was part of the UNF Alumni exhibition at MOCA museum in Jacksonville, FL.

#### Artist Statement

As a disabled female artist, my work is focused on the relationship between my disabled body and the standards for beauty and normalcy. With this project, my intention is to represent my physical disability and to place the viewer in my perspective and show them how I perceive my body and that of others from my wheelchair, and vice versa. With my work I want to take on the challenge of depicting

the world as I see and experience it on a daily basis. I want the viewer to feel they are part of the scene, to place them in my shoes, or in this case, my wheels. My goal is to make the viewer feel the joy, frustration, pain, and desires the same way I experience those feelings as a wheelchair user. The way I approach the composition in my work is by painting the world I see around me using a colorful palette and adding some symbolism to the reality of the scenes. This new body of work retains the richness in color that my previous work has but it shifts from whimsical surrealism in order to show bumps in the skin, and scars. With these paintings I do not wish to simply portrait myself as someone in a wheelchair, I want to confront the viewer with images that at first glance might look like depictions of someone who is an abled body. The reasoning behind this is to honor myself as someone who even with physical limitations can still pretty much do what an abled body person can do, it just might take me a little longer. I expect my work to not be inspirational in a superficial way but to instill different feelings in the viewer, may those feelings be negative or positive ones. I want them to question their physical privileges or lack of, to wonder about their past, present, and what is to come in the future as their bodies age and decay.

ALAN HERNANDEZ

### Artist Bio

Alan Hernandez is a Cuban sculptor and art restorer based in Tallahassee, Florida. He was born in California, but grew up primarily in New York and South Florida. His father was a watchmaker and mother was an educator and artist. As a young child, Alan was inspired to sculpt clay elephants and hippos while visiting the zoo and circus in New York. In 2004, he studied under the renowned sculptor and conservator, Raymond Katz from Palm Beach Florida, where he was involved in various installations and conservation projects for museums and private collections all throughout the state. Alan's unique talent is believed to have been passed down from his great-great grandfather, Joachim Pi Margall, who was a famous sculptor in Spain and the brother of Francisco Pi Margall, who ruled Spain as a Republic in 1873. In his early years, Alan sculpted animals and machinery, but took a break from his art when he became a police officer in Palm Beach County. He then rediscovered his passion for sculpting in 2010 and created the award-winning "Infinite Cost" infinity mirror piece that depicted a flagged draped casket. In 2015, his "Unlock My Heart" sculpture was displayed at the Orlando Museum of Art as part of the Boiler Plate Exhibit. In 2018, Alan was commissioned by billionaire Jean Charles Boisset, owner of Boisset Wines, to create a sculpture of his French bulldog, which is now on display at the Napa Valley headquarters. He currently runs a successful art restoration company that services both public and private art collections throughout Florida. Alan feels closest to his Cuban heritage when he is sculpting and his pieces are a reflection of his spiritual connection to that familial history. For more information on Alan's restorations and commissions, contact him at 850-296-8848 or email him at [alanhernandezart@gmail.com](mailto:alanhernandezart@gmail.com)

### Artist Statement

Alan's art evokes emotions and inspires contemplation through nature and the human experience. Using various mediums, he highlights the beauty of a world similar to ours, inviting viewers to connect and reflect on the intricacies of life and form.

## ALIVIA DAVIS

### Artist Bio

Alivia Davis is a Florida-based artist who specializes in watercolor, gouache, and oil paints. Her work features figurative and landscape elements, drawing inspiration from personal life experiences, and surrealist storytelling. Through her art, Alivia seeks to explore the unspoken beauty of death and decay. She uses her work as a tool to reach a deeper understanding of herself and the world around her, aiming to connect with her innermost thoughts and emotions. Infused with a childlike wonder and appreciation for nature, she draws on memories from her childhood to fuel her creative process.

### Artist Statement

Drift explores the disintegration of human and nature, emphasizing the exploration of self through the beauty of decay. The piece is captivated by the brief moment when life changes from light to dark, condensing the beauty of life. Decomposition, a crucial component of the natural environment's system, balances moments of life and death perfectly within a seemingly chaotic complex system. Drift translates, interprets and reapplies the process of decomposition to life, enabling people to better understand their relationship to matter and spirit.

## ANDY MARLOWE

### Artist Bio

Andy Marlowe was born at some time and has lived some life since; experts expect them to continue doing so. Their art has been featured in exhibitions by Working Method Contemporary Gallery, the Phyllis Strauss Gallery, and the Greenville Museum of Art. Their work has been featured in The Kudzu Review, Exposition Review, and The Eyrie. They are currently an undergraduate student at Florida State University where they are majoring in English and Studio Art.

### Artist Statement

William Carlos Williams once wrote, "A poem is a small (or large) machine made of words." Andy Marlowe's work straddles the boundary between poetry and fine art; it seeks to create and then break the machine Williams describes. In doing this, Marlowe seeks to challenge the cultural idea that language is a clarifying and logical tool. They argue that it is, in fact, illogical and emotional. Their work plays with text, color, and illegibility to create poetic moments which expresses the dualities and contradictions inherent verbal expression. In Specimen Trio, Marlowe uses a domestic sewing machine's monogramming feature to embroider "specimen thoughts" or, emergent images meant for poems. When brought together, the work takes these disparate lines and reconfigures their meaning. The pieces explore memory, magic, and fantasy.

## ANN ROBINSON

### Artist Bio

Ann is an avid naturalist and is happiest when out in nature, on the water or when working on wildlife inspired or abstract art work. She was born in Georgia and spent long summers at Fernandina Beach fascinated by all the creatures in the tidal pools...an endless parade of life. Ann could always be

found talking to surf fishers so that she could catalog their catch for the day. The colors of fish and the glinting of their scales were mesmerizing. Ann moved with her family to Tallahassee and continued all manner of aquatic adventures. She has always been drawn to the wonderful natural world and eco hot zones of the Florida panhandle. Ann has a Master's Degree in Science from Florida State University. She supervised an art therapy program for individuals with varying abilities early in her career. She is now retired and able to devote more time to creative pursuits. Over time, Ann developed a love for the soft textures of malleable copper and brass. Original drawings on metal are used to develop endless textures with different stylus tools and hammering. The metal is then finished with a variety of chemical patinas, torching or transparent oils. Ann's metal work was selected for the juried 32nd (2020) and 34th (2022) Annual Gadsden Arts Regional Exhibition. Her artwork is currently shown at the Pearl, Art for Everyone gallery in Apalachicola, Florida. She also works in watercolor and oil.

### Artist Statement

Ann was drawn to this exhibition with the theory that galactic space art would be complementary for Eden Altered's up close focus on a planetary system. The copper designs and patina will add warmth and an other worldly contrast to the colorful and engaging natural vision of the exhibitors. Panspermia represents the broad dissemination of life throughout the universe in a process that is orchestrated yet random. Life Beyond may well be a response to the message sent from Earth on the Voyager spacecrafts. One that is encrypted with a new language for us to unlock. The message on the Voyagers had audio greetings in 55 languages reflecting peace and harmony. For example, the audio clip in English was "Hello from the children of planet Earth." The Arabic audio clip was "Greetings to our friends in the stars. We wish that we will meet you someday."

BROWNYN BIGELOW

### Artist Bio

Brownyn explores the texture of fabric and surface embellishments. Recently she is concentrating on painting and inking fabric to enhance the depth of layering and stitching.

### Artist Statement

Drawing with stitching connects the visual elements, capturing mature flowers on a warm summer day.

CAMYLJAH ROSE

### Artist Bio

Camyljah Giddens is a Georgian gardener and artist with work focusing on shared human experiences and relating those with flowers. She graduated from Albany State University with a concentration on Fine Art in 2017. After graduation, Giddens shared her education and experience with children as a Visual Arts Teacher. As a mother and gardener, Camyljah enjoys creating beautiful experiences with her family and friends. Art for her serves as a documentation of the experience of the temporary.

## Artist Statement

My work gives visual context to perception. A piece of our human experience is the ability to create context and correlations between two dissimilar ideas. In particular, my current body of work explores the commonalities identity and relationship have with flora and color. More recently, the work I have created centers the idea of "people of color" as a way to separate skin tone from the vibrancy of our human experience. History has been written attempting to capture and make something fleeting permanent. Life, in all its forms, is transient. Paintings, handwritten notes, photographs, and videos were created to document the idea that our lives are important, if only to one observer. In paint I feature faces from the African diaspora, saturated color, and visual metaphors. I take inspiration from relationships, which I believe are the root of our existence. Questioning and experimenting with the quality of those relationships with ourselves and others visually begins a conversation. So, taking cues from surrealism and magical realism artists, I explore ideas such as love, beauty, strength, and existence itself using personal and cultural symbols. Flowers, in particular, have a similar quality in their necessity to life, beauty, and transience while maintaining a relationship to every other living thing in some capacity. The symbolic meaning given to individual species and colors assists in building the narrative each painting conveys. My work will continue to explore perception, identity, and sentience in a personal context while advocating uncomfortable conversations.

CLAIRE OSBORN

## Artist Bio

Claire Osborn is a recent transplant to Tallahassee by way of Miami. She earned a BFA in Studio Art from Arkansas State University in 2005 before beginning a career as a product designer. In 2020, she left that 15 year career to pursue painting full time. Claire draws her inspiration from God's beautiful creation, her husband's brilliant storytelling, and the wonder-filled life of their young son.

## Artist Statement

Claire Osborn's work explores nature in both large and small scales. Primarily a painter of skyscapes and plant portraits, she brings a love of illustration into each of her pieces. When viewing her work, you can expect to find that every element – from thundercloud to flower petal – has a story to tell.

DAN TAYLOR

## Artist Bio

Dan Taylor is a Tallahassee artist best known for his abstract paintings featuring bold, striking color palettes. His paintings have become highly sought-after and have been featured regionally at the Tampa Museum of Art and locally with the Council on Culture & Arts, LeMoyne Center for Visual Arts (board vice president), Venvi Art Gallery, Gadsden Art Center, Hotel Duval, 621 Gallery and FSU '92s Oglesby Art Gallery. He has volunteered countless hours of his time and been generous with his talents to raise funds for organizations and causes he cares about including Tallahassee '92s Big Bend Cares, where he serves on the board and the Council on Culture & Arts, the officially designated local arts agency for Tallahassee/Leon County, where he serves as chairman. Taylor also works in precious metal clay to create unique jewelry designs and he produces large scale garden sculpture in steel, wood, and various other materials.

## Artist Statement

Although not necessarily on purpose, much of Taylor's work is evocative of movement/action/reaction, often related to earth, sea and sky: a tornado resulting in a color explosion, new deep-space nebulae born of the death of a star, abstracted foliage bursting to life.

DARLA WINN

## Artist Bio

Darla Winn is a talented artist and photographer who was born into a military family and spent most of her childhood in Colorado, Alaska, and Wyoming. Her exposure to diverse landscapes, people, art, and music during her early years laid the foundation for her creativity. After moving to Tallahassee in 1996, Darla has become an active member of the local community. She is the proud mother of three daughters who are her best friends, and she currently resides in Indianhead with her fiancé, Scott, and their pets, a dog named Yoda and a cat named Storm, who she rescued from Panama City after Hurricane Michael. When not creating art, Darla enjoys working on home projects, watching AEW professional wrestling, and exploring the local dining scene in Tallahassee. Her artwork has been featured in several local venues, including Fermentation Lounge, Bella Bella, B Sharpe's Jazz Club, Grasslands Brewery, and Olde Fields. Darla's work has also gained recognition with features in Looks Like Film, The Local Palate Magazine, the Tallahassee Democrat, and Exposure Software. She shares her work on her Instagram account, @darlawinn, and her website, DarlaWinnPhotography.com.

## Artist Statement

Darla's love for photography started in 2009 when she was working as a court stenographer, where she often witnessed the darkness and ugliness of life. She wanted to find light and beauty to balance this out and turned to photography as an outlet. Even though she loves photography, she intentionally avoided making it her primary occupation and instead uses it to capture life around her and turn it into art in her free time. Darla is self-taught, and she believes that imagination and passion are the best teachers. One of Darla's favorite things about photography is finding a connection between her subject and her lens. She feels that the process of creating a photograph is just as meaningful as the photograph itself. Darla is inspired by photographer Diane Arbus, who said, "My favorite thing is to go where I've never been." This quote resonates with Darla as she loves exploring new places and finding new subjects to capture with her camera. Overall, photography is an essential outlet for Darla, allowing her to find light and beauty in the world around her and turn it into art. Her self-taught approach and passion for the craft have enabled her to create meaningful connections with her subjects and capture stunning images that inspire others.

DEE YOUMANS

## Artist Bio

With an extensive background in both graphic and fine art, and degrees in Art History and Art Education, Dee possess a wide perspective from which to draw. She tend to pull inspiration from each, so that her work has references to various art styles and techniques that blend into one image. Translated into a new perspective with layers of color and texture, the image comes through in the end. The compositions are woven together producing art that is tapestry-like in its richness. Called split

realism, Dee's work concentrates on details in nature, bringing to the viewer the world's most beautiful plants, animals and insects. The recycled magazines are the foundation for the five layers she works in on all the canvases. Truly a different and unique style, Dee's work connects with each viewer, bringing a wonderful sense of beauty and peace.

### Artist Statement

Chosen as one of the Art Pop Artist for Tampa Bay and as the Award Artist for Tampa Bay Business Committee for the Arts, Dee Youmans artwork is unlike any others. Her work blends detailed natural elements, vibrant with color and contrasts it with the abstract and tapestry-like background.

## DOELL WEST

### Artist Bio

Doell West is a self-taught artist was raised in Tallahassee Florida, but currently resides in Monticello FL on her little farm. Doell creates in a wide variety of mediums. Doell grew up pre-computers where children develop creativity by using their imagination. She learned color theory by deciding on which Crayola crayon to use, developed her steady hand by writing in cursive, learned how to sculpt by hand erecting Barbie furniture out of cardboard milk cartons. Her most satisfy works come from giving new life to discarded pieces of furniture, turning them into whimsical functional art. Doell has had several solo exhibits in the Zoe Golloway Gallery located in Gadsden Art Center; as well as being selected to exhibit in their 25th Art in Gadsden and 26th Art in Gadsden (awarded People's Choice Award). She also has shown both her oil paintings along with furniture art pieces with Creative Tallahassee City Hall exhibit.

### Artist Statement

Doell West considers herself a self-taught artist. She was born in Tallahassee FL, but now reside in Lloyd FL on a small farm. She enjoys working in a variety of mediums. Such as; pen and ink, black and white photography (film), oil painting and ceramics. She enjoys the challenge to master a new medium. Her current design work is "repurposing" furniture into functional art pieces. Her inspiration comes from the colorful design on old world painted donkey carts. The ability to take a negated piece and give it new life gives her a since of accomplishment. As she starts to work on a piece she examines the form and shape, looking for the flow of the design. The piece will dictate the direction and flow of design. Her goal is to fill in negative space, using shapes and color to provide a visual effect: as well as tactile imagery with the rise of the paint.

## EMILY MITCHELL

### Artist Bio

Emily Mitchell is a multi-disciplined artist based out of Jacksonville, Florida. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of North Florida and continues her exploration in painting. Mitchell is fascinated with the impermanence of life; an interest that emerged from her teenage years as she struggled to recall and categorize fading childhood memories. Mitchell uses the human body and various environments to explore the unconscious and investigate the lingering impact our perceptions and memories have on our place in the natural world. Mitchell's work can be characterized by themes of ephemerality, lush color schemes, and an emphasis on the human presence. Mitchell works primarily

with oil paints but is interested in a variety of mediums such as acrylic, gouache, collage, charcoal, pastel, and various other materials.

### Artist Statement

My paintings investigate the complexity and ephemerality of the world we navigate through dynamic colors, compositions, and narratives. My work is characterized by dynamic and rich impressionistic brush strokes and lush atmospheric colors. In my current series, I use the human body, nature, and every-day objects as a means of exploring permeability, memory, and spirituality. Utilizing oil paint, I paint numerous layers with varying depth and saturation levels to emphasize the haziness and transience of my images. I emphasize fluid, merging forms and reject clear and finite boundaries in my compositions. The viewer's participation is essential in the creation and success of the work. With their interpretations, viewers bring their own contexts and experiences to the piece and emphasize an overlap of tangibility versus intangibility.

## FIONA BORGER

### Artist Bio

Fiona Borger is a local Tallahassee artist and art educator. She works primarily with watercolors and acrylics but also creates ceramic work as well. Fiona's work centers around themes of nature and spirituality.

### Artist Statement

Fiona's work uses playful and vibrant colors contrasted with obscure and brooding imagery to convey a sense of mystery and to invoke curiosity and intrigue

## FORREST WILSON

### Artist Bio

Forrest Wilson is a visual artist living in Orlando, FL, and a recent Master of Fine Arts graduate from The University of Central Florida. In childhood, Forrest experienced the loss of the family they were born into before spending the remainder of their formative years in highly conservative, Christian foster homes. After "aging out" of the foster care system at eighteen Forrest moved to Orlando, FL to pursue painting and drawing at the University of Central Florida. Their work utilizes fantastical imagery as a method of processing and transforming childhood trauma and, visually and thematically, it intersects personal symbolism, intense coloration, and the expression of queer identity. In their most recent works, they employ pastels to depict colorful alter egos that enact intimate dramas and moments of personal reflection inspired by the artist's lived experiences and emotional states.

### Artist Statement

In 'Utopia's Seating Chart.' queer theorist José Esteban Muñoz describes, "...rather than being static and fixed, the past does things. It is in this very way that the past is performative." In some form or another, we are all the products of the past. Our identities are informed by both our inherited histories and our lived experiences. Examining my past, I have often felt my existence as a queer person as something not welcomed or celebrated. For this reason, I use imaginative figuration and personal



symbolism to explore the facets of my internal self. Employing highly chromatic pastels I create a cast of characters that act as allegories of my feelings and experiences so they may intercede on my behalf, create an empathetic space, and connect with their viewer. My figures are often composites of Biblical angels and demons, among other mythological creatures. Their chimeric forms I designed in an act of defiance against the label of "abomination" that was applied to queerness in my youth. With their intense glances, they divulge hidden secrets, their pensive claws express withheld anxieties, and their feathered wings protect themselves and each other, forging new identities as divine.

## HANNAH KEATS

### Artist Bio

A surreal life for a surreal artist. Hannah Keats is based in Tallahassee, Florida, where she focuses on creating biomorphic and realistic paintings inspired by nature and her environmental activism. Hannah Keats is currently attending Florida State University for her Masters in Fine Art for Studio Art. This is her first semester in graduate school and she is diving deeper into how we connect to the natural world through paintings. Beyond her love of painting and nature, Keats is also active in Northeast Florida's up-and-coming art scene. She has exhibited art in a number of galleries and shows in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Cape Canaveral, Tampa, Tallahassee, and Melbourne, Florida. Recently, Keats was invited to participate in a show at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Jacksonville. The show she is currently in there is a retrospective of alumni who graduated from the University of North Florida between 1974 and 2020. Another accolade that Keats recently received was a full tuition waiver, stipend, and graduate assistantship to attend Florida State University for her MFA. When Keats is not in class or working in her studio, she can frequently be seen mountain biking, rock climbing, or plein-air painting around Tallahassee.

### Artist Statement

My current body of work/research focuses on combining traditional oil painting techniques with digital art and installation to create a narrative about how people turn animals into commodities and fetishize them for aesthetic value. More specifically in Florida, there has been a "trendy exotic pet" to invasive species pipeline, due to people buying exotic animals and releasing them into the wild, because they thought the animals were pretty and not acknowledging that they are in fact living beings. The release of these pets has caused a surge in invasive species within Florida and wrecked havoc on native populations/habitats.

## HEATHER BLOCKER

### Artist Bio

Heather Blocker has been honing her skills in photography for the past several years. She has photographed everything from landscapes to people and everything in between.

### Artist Statement

Heather Blocker believes in story telling through photography, blending classical elegance with a modern minimalism.

## JAYLENE CABRERA

### Artist Bio

Focused on Painting, Drawing and Printmaking through breaking boundaries of traditional creation by implementing mark-making, mixed media, reclaimed tools, and unrestricted play. Jaylene Cabrera is a Fine Artist studying for her BFA. She won First place for 2019 Art in the Park Art Contest and 2022 Jacksonville Trash Art contest. Her work was previously exhibited at CoRK Arts District featuring award winning "Materiality and Process" and Rose Vonda. Her work was published on Grain of Salt Mag in 2022. Jaylene has Co-curated UNF Gallery Exhibitions including The Library Show: Continuous Thought, Faculty Art show and Art and Philosophy Conference. She is Currently represented by Open Doors Curation in Denver, Colorado. In the coming months, her work will be featured in Filthy Glo Zine on their instagram page.

### Artist Statement

Focused on painting, drawing and printmaking through breaking boundaries of traditional creation. This is implemented by mark-making, mixed media, reclaimed tools in an unrestricted practice. I challenge myself by testing my knowledge of color theory, composition, scale, and media. Subsequently creating pieces that embody the boundless freedoms that artistry employs when given tools to work without reluctance. This collection of oil paintings is process based. Ultimately created by chance, experimentation and understanding the psyche. My practice examines artistry by looking within myself for unresolved emotions and, utilizing the natural world for materials and inspiration. When I am working, emotions fuel my creativity and relentless anguish. Within my works, I am overcoming repressed traumas without inhibition. This means a part of the creative process is the opportunity to be destructive and rehabilitative. Painting is a way to visualize my emotions to understand myself as an artist and individual. This work is a glimpse of what the psyche sees when our minds and bodies express ourselves to internalize our emotions rather than suppressing them. The message behind the art is also my motivation as an artist. Clearing my thoughts by being fueled with creative energy. While other moments bring tranquility. Inevitably holding myself accountable by being productive though not having a clear path of what that work is fulfills my desires of abstraction. What inspires my art is making work that feels personal, experimentative and psychological. I've learned to stop expecting the art to look a certain way and to instead approach the subject with limitless possibilities. Art's analytical, therapeutic and chaotic symphony is why I am continuing to reach new heights in my artistic practices.

## JENNIFER HART

### Artist Bio

Jennifer Hart is a long-time resident of Tallahassee Florida. She has been an artist and amateur photographer for many years, striving to capture her subjects with intriguing perspective and care for the natural environment. As an artist, Jennifer's work is mainly illustrative, however she is looking forward to delving into more expressive compositions.

### Artist Statement

Naturally Surreal! The photo pieces submitted by the artist are images captured in a way that projects an aura of surrealism. The magnolia was photographed using a lighting fall-off technique, illuminating the subjects in a way to create a black background, with no apparent anchor within the

frame. The roseate spoonbill was only visible by a narrow ray of sun, providing the photographer an opportunity to capture the unusual bird with a somewhat mystical viewpoint.

## JOSEPH ROMERO

### Artist Bio

Joseph Romero also known as "Nizmoantics" is a self taught dynamic illustration & street artist from colorful South Florida. Joseph finds inspiration through nature and it's struggle, focusing on conversation of the environment in abstract mix media forms. Nizmoantics promotes love, unity, nature with a splash of pop culture.

### Artist Statement

The primal struggle between predator and prey is timeless and has played out for millennia. Countless sunrises and sunsets, lives lived and lives lost. Atrophy and chaos somehow creating a perfect balance for the hunter and the hunted. Where Man kind sits in this balance we have yet to understand. Nizmoantics studies the ghost of what was and the realization of what is. The struggle continues.

## JULIA FLANAGAN

### Artist Bio

Julia Flanagan is an Assemblage Mosaic Artist. She is originally from Wisconsin where she has won several awards for her creations. Her life size lion sculpture won "peoples choice award" at the Paine Art Center in Oshkosh Wisconsin. She has also won "best in show" at the Oshkosh Museum art exhibit. Julia was art director for the designing and creation of the Laos-Hmong war memorial at the prestigious Koehler Art Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She has also won several other art exhibit awards. Julia holds three degrees from the University of Wisconsin and has taught all mediums of art to students of all ages.

### Artist Statement

Julia Flanagan creates what she calls "Mosaic Assemblage" art. She uses glass combined with other found objects to express her ideas Vito very colorful, and often humorous results. Julia considers herself to be an ultimate recycler finding ways to reuse objects in new ways.

## KELLY DEAL

### Artist Bio

Kelly Deal was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1983. She has always loved creating, drawing, and imagining. As a young adult, this "talent" or "gift" became a handicap in her education due largely to my arrogance and ego. She was an unteachable art student. She felt that because she could draw well meant this was all she needed to know. (Years later, Kelly can humbly admit...there is much more to it. If you feel you know more than your teacher, you should go ahead and leave the room because you are wasting everyone's time.) Kelly studied art at North Georgia College and State University (today, known as North Georgia University). As a member of the Toccoa Artists Guild she studied soft pastels. The bold

marks and the way the colors could pack into the sanded paper intrigued her. All of her art at that time was completed in the Appalachian foothills in soft pastel, acrylic or graphite. In 2020 the Deal family left northeast Georgia for Port Saint Joe, Florida. Kelly taught fifth grade in Wewahitchka and currently teaches 4th grade in Port St Joe. Having been so inspired by the bay and the colorful lifestyle of the panhandle, her personal style has evolved. Her colors are ever brighter and lighter. The joy she see daily around her has influenced a whimsical shift in content. Kelly has experienced a fantastic renaissance of her own and is creating with childlike passion now. "I have never met a color I didn't like."  
- Kelly Deal

### Artist Statement

"Eden Altered" has afforded me an opportunity for self-reflection. My husband calls me Rabbit. This has always been a sweet and intimate gift in my eyes- to be named. For the last year, I have explored a metamorphosis and its revealed in my paintings by a mermaid. The mermaid gives me a chance to weed through personal narratives in a visual way. Seems only fitting to participate in Eden Altered. In this painting, the rabbit mermaid is immersed in an underwater garden. The contrast in the deep cold of the water and the warm reflecting sun has always symbolized a heaven/hell - a retrieval, a respite, rebirth, or a human pull to return to the depths. My series is in progress- this piece is now a part of that story. "Smug", a contemporary cultural commentary on the pop-ideal of females who did in-fact eat the forbidden fruit, would indeed eat it again, and fed it to their man-on purpose. I am in no-way in agreeance with that opinion; but rather appalled and offended that there are females who wear this mask of insecurity. Rather than love, honor, and obey- they defame, make trouble, and spread hate and discontent. It shows far more strength of character to love all the way and submit oneself. Even in the valleys of the garden. Thanks for coming to my Ted Talk.

## KRISTEN SUMMERS

### Artist Bio

Kristen Summers is a practicing attorney whose mission is to fill her free time with all things that bring her joy. This includes hiking, biking, traveling, gardening, and of course, painting! Kristen has always been passionate about the natural world and elements of the outdoors tend to permeate into every area of her life, and especially in her art.

### Artist Statement

Kristen Summers is a former watercolorist who has taken her art in a new (and old) direction. In pursuit of finding joy through self expression, Summers explores intuitive abstract/abstract expressionism by painting with her hands. Summers feels that by being physically connected to her art, she is able to breathe life and dynamic into each piece. Her work is characterized by bold colors, thick texture, and scenes inspired by nature, wildlife, and joy.

## LAURA COLOMB

### Artist Bio

Laura Colomb is a painter who currently works from the land surrounding Jacksonville, Florida. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Boston University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the College of Saint Rose. She holds awards including an Art Ventures grant from the Community

Foundation of Northeast Florida (Jacksonville, FL, 2020) and a fellowship from the Starr Foundation (New York, NY) to fund an artist residency at the Royal Academy of the Arts (London, UK, 2005). Additional artist residency awards include the Golden Foundation (New Berlin, NY 2023), Jentel Arts (Sheridan, Wyoming, 2022), Monson Arts (Monson, Maine, 2022) and Salem Art Works (Salem, NY, 2007). Her recent solo exhibition at the Lake George Arts Project (Lake George, NY, 2021), *The End of Eden*, was reviewed in *Whitehot Magazine* (NY, NY). In 2023, she was featured as a Studio Visit Artist for *I Like Your Work* Podcast. She has been a guest critic/speaker for the Camberwell College of Art (London, UK), The College of Saint Rose (Albany, NY), Albany High School (Albany, CA), and the Upper Hudson Valley Watercolor Society (Queensbury, NY). She has curated and organized exhibitions for various galleries including Saratoga Arts (Saratoga Springs, NY) and North Main Gallery (Salem, NY) for which she was recognized by *Metroland Magazine* (Albany, NY) with the Best Emerging Regional Curator award. In addition, she has taught drawing, design and painting courses at various institutions including Boston University, the University of North Florida, Adirondack State College, The College of Saint Rose and Empire State College. Laura has also spent time working with Albany Mural on murals in Albany, NY including the Hudson Riverfront Mural, Excavate Mural, and within the New York State Assembly Chamber.

## Artist Statement

Most major natural spaces, where one can really experience raw nature, are through State and National Parks; many of which were initially protected due to their proximity to sites which contained historical significance. For her artistic practice, Laura makes paintings and drawings in these spaces, both from life and from sketches and photographs that she takes. In exploring this land, she is always struck by the contradiction of these utterly incredible, beautiful, awe-inspiring spaces adjoining historic sites where extremely violent events and massive crimes of injustice often took place. This dichotomy of how we preserve history containing some of the worst aspects of our past as a country, along with preserving our spaces of natural splendor fascinates her. She strives to explore this duality in her work by choosing these sites, to see if it is possible to show this tension through a traditional landscape approach. Through this process she is left with questions as to whether history can leave a trace on the land, if it mars it in some way, if the spirits of those lost can be felt and experienced in the light that filters through the trees and in the stillness of the unmoving air. Laura's work has been focusing on these such sites just outside Jacksonville, FL; primarily Kingsley Plantation, Fort Caroline National Monument and the Talbot Islands State Parks. The heat of Florida, the swamps, the humidity, and the bugs only add to the sense of foreboding as she tries to imagine what the stolen and displaced people who built these sites felt, as they found themselves in this poisoned Garden of Eden. The density of these forests, with the ominous rustle of creatures moving close next to you, but which you can't see, create a miasma of nightmare. Yet, in the light, the greenery, and the scrub, there is a rich beauty, as if steeped in a world where time stands still, where one can still momentarily get lost in the romanticism of the natural landscape. As Laura explores the essence of this land through her painting, she is constantly reminded of the impermanence of it, located on the edges of a rising sea. A rising caused by climate change, another testament to the ravages of capitalism and colonialism. This location witnessed many horrors, and so she has begun to think of the trees as sentinels, or those who have been, and still are, keeping watch. She has taken this concept into her most recent paintings, where she paints the trees and shrubs as types of portraits, often echoing the centrality in light and placement, of a Christ figure in a crucifixion painting. This connection to Christianity, key in its relationship to colonialism, feels appropriate to make when working from this scarred land.

## LESLEY NOLAN

### Artist Bio

Lesley Nolan is an only child of a US Army Officer. Both her father and mother also were children of career World War II Army Officers. Home was wherever they were stationed, which necessitated thrifty creativity to make a house into a home. It is on those shoulders that she stands. After graduating from the University of Central Florida with a degree in the Social Sciences focusing on Law, Lesley married her Kentucky Fort Knox High School sweetheart. From Florida, to Atlanta, to Panama City, and finally to Tallahassee she worked, raised her family and as a homemaker turned to the artistic tendencies unconsciously nurtured from her past. She began exploring the re-emergent art of fused glass and worked successfully in that material for 25 years. She earned awards, accolades, and a position of respect in her field; sharing, teaching, and exploring the many facets of the medium. Her work is enjoyed in corporate and personal collections throughout the country. Even with the large panels of dancing figures that she became known for and sold across the US, she felt she wasn't able to develop the narrative she yearned for. In 2014 she began to venture into the tactile and malleable world of clay. As daunting as any career change, it has been a fast and furious learn curving that challenges her technically and creatively. She feels she was destined to make this change. Lesley's clay figures represent the commonplace and droll, and the serious and confusing, inner dialogs which we all have thought out loud or subconsciously. Quizzical and whimsical expressions represent the questionable circumstance that we may find ourselves in. She seems to want us to smile in the face of darkness and rejoice in the wonder of it all. I believe her piece which represents the quote by Voltaire, "Life is a shipwreck but that doesn't mean we can't sing in the lifeboat" speaks to the very essence of her work.

### Artist Statement

After 25 years of working with fused glass, Lesley made a complete left turn and began to sculpt in clay. Her clay figures represent the commonplace and droll. She imagines both our serious and confusing inner dialogs. Quizzical and whimsical expressions represent the questionable circumstances in which humans often find ourselves. Sometimes a glimpse of the animal kingdom and a more simple equation of life finds the answer. In this case, a dazzle of zebras. The zebra is so like a domesticated horse but wild and untamable. They live in the harsh truth of the savannahs but continue on no matter what. Although self-taught, her friends and community of artists have been a constant and generous source of technical information. She chose to work with a mid-fire stoneware clay that seems versatile enough for her imagination. Lesley uses underglazes and vitreous glazes depending on the surface that she believes enhances the voice of the piece. Each piece develops during their creation not always from a fully formed idea. Lesley thinks it is always important to stay flexible and allow the piece to go where it wants.

## MELISSA DAVIS

### Artist Bio

Melissa Davis (Born 1997, Tampa) is an acrylic and oil painter based in Tallahassee. Davis graduated from Florida State University with her BFA in 2020. Davis creates soulful, vibrant works that reflect universal connection, inner reckoning, and reverie. Psychedelic insights are encoded within painted matrixes of light, entangled limbs, and roots. She urges viewers to see their own inner light and interconnectedness mirrored in the glowing sprites that illuminate her richly painted world. Davis's practice draws inspiration from meditative and rhythmic exploration, communal connection, and

psychedelic experiences. She is interested in the potential of visual art as a tool for connection and healing.

### Artist Statement

Gestating within the womb of the Earth, a soul reincarnates into a body of pure light. This vegetal matrix of rebirth invites viewers to commune with their own meditations on personal transformation and the nature of consciousness.

MEREDITH MALONEY

### Artist Bio

Meredith's imagination is fueled by her beloved Florida's beautiful and diverse flora and fauna, with a leaning toward making art that represents the sea and the wetlands, both above and below the waterline. Her favorite art to create involves reef scenes, seascapes, and native wetland forest. With a combination of formal training at every opportunity; and learning on the go, originally from Miami, Meredith's experience spans from living in London to living in Key West, where some old family roots are. Her endeavors in the past have included a small Key West sign shop that made hand lettered artful signs; sandblasted wood and glass works; and custom murals. Later becoming involved in SCUBA diving and earning an associates degree in Diving Business management from Florida Keys College, Meredith's love of the reef became more evident in her artwork, allowing for more original reefscape compositions. Having worked in a variety of mediums and embracing some not so traditional techniques as well, Meredith likes exploring the therapeutic value of creating and appreciating art of all kinds - "I like to challenge myself with new mediums from time to time, keeping my creative energy flowing between projects".

### Artist Statement

Throughout Meredith's creative life, much of her productive work has been with making painted canvas and custom murals - Now she brings wool to the table. The interlocking fibers that create durable felt become magic at her fingertips! Using wet felting and needle felting techniques, two and three-dimensional projects are brought to life. Incorporating other fibers that work well in the felting process with wool, including bamboo fiber; silk fibers; printed silk chiffon - adds more dimension and texture to the work. Lately, Meredith has been experimenting with using silk chiffon prints to infuse with the felt pictures she makes. She is finding interest in animal prints and how they are able to, with some imagination, represent a variety of other wildlife and objects in her designs.

MONICA RIOS

### Artist Bio

Monica Rios is a self-taught artist residing in Tallahassee, Florida. She has exhibited her work for over 25 years. She is a member of the Artists' League of the Big Bend of Florida and an Artists Guild Member of the Gadsden Arts Center. Her work is dream-inspired, and imagery is taken from her photography of Florida and of her travels. Rios has shown her work from Montreal, Canada to the US Virgin Islands, in festivals and galleries. She has received both public and private commissions, and her paintings have been published.

## Artist Statement

This piece, "Adam and Eve" was inspired by an interest to create something three dimensional, and to explore the different cultural origins of forbidden fruit, depicted with apple, pineapple, and bananas. Paper clay made from volcanic ash, was put through a slab roller, and then draped over air dry clay sculptures of the 3D components, arranged on an air conditioning duct. The piece was cured in a room with a dehumidifier for a week, in which time it shrunk and was gently pulled from the AC duct and sculpture. The AC duct created the curvature, and the air dry clay created the figures. The piece was sanded and sealed in before layers of gold wax and acrylic paint were applied to define the 3D components.

QUINCIE HAMBY

## Artist Bio

Creating wearable art has been my artistic passion, but along the way to creativity was a study into art, culture and history. Immersing myself into cultural history of the Mayan, Hohokam and Anasazi altered my way of looking at wearable art. It's not strictly about diamonds and precious stones, but also about amulets that are not only significant to an individual, but also to a group of people who are part of your tribe.

## Artist Statement

My jewelry designs have evolved from a lifetime of creativity and research. They're composed of objects that reflect a lifestyle influence by my studies in Anthropology/Archaeology. My interest in cultural diversity and how cultures used vibrant colors to express themselves. Colors are important, but also the historical context of trade routes, manufacturing products and the significant of design. Finally, I always find myself moving towards "found objects" that create a story. Whether it be a collection of locket, or a flotilla of exotic shells, I love creating a visual dialog that a person can wear.

RENÉ LYNCH

## Artist Bio

René Lynch is an artist who lives in Tallahassee, Florida. Extensive travel to tropical shores, including a yearlong sabbatical on the Garden Isle of Kauai, provides an endless array of subject matter. Her previous work life includes nineteen years in the technology industry and several years as an interior designer. She left a teaching position in Interior Design at Florida State University to create art full time. René and her husband Larry have three grown children and two grandchildren.

## Artist Statement

Color, rhythm and value; these are the driving forces behind my work. I see lushness all around me, and I want to capture it, process it and throw it back out onto the surface. As I travel through the tropical landscape, I see colors so ripe that I can almost taste them, and I want to convey that sensation to those who view my work. Using water and earth based media that mimic the organic qualities of my subject matter, I try to recreate the exuberance of our natural world."



## RUTH NICKENS

### Artist Bio

Ruth is a Stained glass and mix media artist in Tallahassee, Florida. Her work has been exhibited and collected locally and worldwide. She has had her art on display at zillions of art shows, exhibits, homes, galleries and houses of worship throughout the years. She currently working on the biggest commission of her lifetime.

### Artist Statement

The pieces I have selected to submit for this exhibit, Eden Altered, reflect my interpretation of the randomness and magnificence of nature -- botanical, geological and anatomical. All of my work celebrates color, joy, life, and whimsy.

## SALLY RUDE

### Artist Bio

Sally Rude studied under the internationally lauded sculptor, Barbara Balzer.

### Artist Statement

Starting with a slab of clay, each work is unique and freely conceived. Sally's sculptures are her own interpretation of a subject and sometimes evolve into a small series over time. Her ambivalence to authentic recreation may be balanced by an emphasis on form, or the spiritual dimension of a subject. Sally often imbues the innate character of the subject with humor.

## TERRIE CORBETT

### Artist Bio

Over the last 20 years, Terrie has served as an artist liaison on the Florida Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as Artists' Representative on the Board of Directors - LeMoyné Center for the Visual Arts, member of the Board of Directors for 621 Gallery, and an Area Director for the Florida Artists Group. She exhibits throughout the State and around the country. Her most recent one woman show entitled "Beyond the Familiar" was held in the Munroe Family Gallery at the Gadsden Art Center and Museum. Awards and recognition in publications may be seen in her resume. In addition to exhibiting, since 2000, Terrie has curated, mounted, or coordinated ten (10) exhibitions for regional visual art centers, museums, and art spaces. In 2018, 2015, and 2003 she coordinated 3 exhibitions at the FL Capitol for the Artists' League of the FSU MoFA ("Of Vision and Variety," "Encore: Of Vision and Variety," and "The Way We See It." In 2018, she mounted an exhibition entitled "Leaving Our Mark" at the LeMoyné Center for the Visual Arts. In 2016, she mounted "Inner Space," in the Walmsley Gallery, at the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts featuring work by the Abstract Expressionists' guild. In 2014, she developed an exhibition called "Glass at the Walmsley," in the Walmsley Gallery, FSU MoFA. In 2005, she mounted an invitational at the Gadsden Art Center entitled "Kiln Joy" featuring glass, clay, metals, and enamel. In 2003, she mounted two different exhibitions at the Merrill Lynch Offices entitled "Art in the Business Environment I and II." In 2007, she mounted "A Glass Act" at the Florida Capitol which displayed the variety of ways that glass may be manipulated. In

2002, She mounted an exhibition called "Synergy" at the Claude Pepper Museum featuring members of the Artists' League FSU MoFA.. Terrie's work is found in several permanent collections: The Florida State University MoFA Permanent Collection as part of the Sonia and Stanley Cohen Collection, The Florida Department of State, and the Florida House of Representatives. Her work is also found in private collections.

### Artist Statement

"I love to paint! I love the way paint smells, the way it feels, the way it moves, the way it caresses a surface. I work intuitively and in several different mediums - those are Encaustic, Oil and wax, and layered graphite. While I use traditional tools and mark-making, I also experiment with a variety of non-traditional tools such as needles, nails, bowl scrapers, skewers, and dental implements. I also use a variety of drawing materials and may utilize different types of often exotic papers in collage efforts. My process is not unlike a visual jazz - each stroke elicits the next, as layer after layer is applied to a substrate. I continue in this way until the painting reveals itself!"

VERONICA HNATIUK

### Artist Bio

Veronica Hnatiuk is passionate about life! While growing up in Tallahassee, FL, Veronica developed a strong connection to nature that has been a constant theme in her creative process. Throughout her formative years, Veronica would always create something artsy, a talent which continued to develop while attending SAIL High School and into college where she completed oil and watercolor courses. She pivoted her formal education to the sciences, specifically Human Nutrition, while keeping her passion for art alive through viewing shows and galleries. Within her professional career as a Registered Dietitian, Veronica stayed true to herself in using her creativity as her greatest asset in problem solving and fostering human connection. However, during the pandemic, she had an opportunity to fully embrace her artistic side and come back to what truly gave her joy in life - painting nature in all its comfort, solitude and beauty. Veronica is now living as a full-time artist and business owner in sunny Bradenton, Florida with her husband and family including 3 fur-babies. She loves the vibrant art life that surrounds her in South Florida, and enjoys connecting to the art community in Tallahassee when she visits family. Veronica holds a BS from Florida State University and an MS from The University of Memphis in Clinical Nutrition. Stay up-to-date with Veronica's journey by following VEH Fine Art on her website ([www.vehfineart.com](http://www.vehfineart.com)), Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube!

### Artist Statement

"There is a whole universe on a single rose petal." Veronica strives to create works which connect the cycle of her life to those she sees in nature. Her inspiration comes from flora close to her South Florida home - yellow and purple roses which grow in her garden and a variety of trees in her neighborhood. She is fascinated with the intricacies of roses, rose petals, and capturing their essence at different phases of life. Veronica sees beauty at every stage, but especially in the crunchy petals of a dried rose, no longer soft but possessing dried strength. The pieces presented here are representative of the phases within Veronica's current season of life - transition, self-discovery, transformation, and, ultimately, growth. Veronica delights in creating works that have bold, intense colors that complement each other and playing with composition to create a strong focal point. Veronica enjoys using various techniques to achieve her desired outcome; her floral pieces have a strong graphite sketch underlying

watercolor while her tree and sky compositions are achieved with layers and layers of controlled watercolor. Her art practice continues to evolve with each cycle of life.

VICTORIA "JONI" HALL

### Artist Bio

Joni Hall is an artist whose primary medium is acrylic. She has an extensive portfolio of abstract works but also paints landscapes, portraits and various subjects. Joni enjoys the process as much as the final result, especially when adding texture. It is the thrill of the chase that motivates her with each piece. Balance and mood guide her color choices and paint application. Each piece is intended to be an experience for the viewers as they roam through the work.

### Artist Statement

The pieces created by Joni Hall are meant to take the viewer on a journey. It can be one of excitement or purposeful contemplation. The goal is for the viewer to be moved to a state of mind that has not been considered before.