

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Braveheart Farm, 154 Saddle Side Drive, Mill Spring, NC

Matt Laughridge – oil painting

Matt is a local artist currently residing in Tryon, NC. He studied art in Florence, Italy and is available for commissions only.

He can be reached at: Matt.laughridge@gmail.com

Patricia Nobles - photography, quilted canvas, pottery and jewelry

I have always been an artist....before I even knew what art was, it was natural to me. Interpreting what I have experienced throughout my life and caught my interest using a variety of media just made sense and brought me joy. I also have always loved traveling and appreciate the way it brought more imagery from different natural places and cultures for me to explore and incorporate into my art.

My latest work upon moving to the western North Carolina area has been mostly in ceramics and more specifically throwing on the wheel, a technique and medium I haven't explored for many years. I have also started to explore the medium of precious metal clay which is a bit of a marriage of clay with my years of work making jewelry in metal.

The imagery I am enjoying at this point is petroglyphs and pictographs from ancient native cultures primarily in the US. This imagery is tied to my family and travels in the southwest to visit them periodically. My logo is taken from my appreciation of native Alaskan art and my studio name is from my personal visualization of a phase of the moon.

My work in quilted canvas is a melding of my enjoyment in sewing my own clothing and a final project for my painting class during my university studies.

My enjoyment of photography started as an offshoot of documenting my artwork and has become a way to capture and preserve my enjoyment of the beauty I encounter as I move through my existence.

I was born and raised on the north shore of the Chicago, Illinois area and studied Art Education at Illinois State University where I was awarded the Elizabeth Stein Art Scholarship for my portfolio from high school where I was also awarded a National Scholastic Gold Key Award for my jewelry and had a piece travel nationally in an exhibition. During my university studies I was a teaching assistant in the Jewelry department while attending classes toward my degree. My ties with North Carolina started with my parents and enjoying a mountain house for the summers at Beech Mountain near Boone. While living in Concord, NC, I volunteered as a docent for many years at the Cabarrus Arts Council Galleries and substitute taught in Cabarrus County Schools also while starting a business in non-medical in-home care for seniors.

I have attended a variety of classes at Penland School of Craft through the years and enjoyed working as a volunteer for many of those years at the annual benefit auctions held in the summer there. I have also taught art at a variety of levels from pre-K to university level as well as seniors in assisted living and dementia care.

Patricia can be reached at: patkaynjay@gmail.com

Bright's Creek Equestrian Center, 1921 Palmer Road, Mill Spring, NC

Caroline Young – oil painting

I paint an inner world, which often includes aspects of the outer world. The invisible realm is infinite, so much grander than what we see with our eyes. I paint intuitively, allowing the painting to lead. I follow, applying the medium, responding to each previous decision, happy to be directed. Allowing the subconscious mind to take over is a joyful, meditative experience. The interaction between shape, line, color and space orchestrate the end result. It is a dialogue that is based on listening to my instincts and responding accordingly.

I painted in high school, and took every class offered in The Fine Arts Program at Sandhills Community College. I studied at The Academy of Classical Design in Southern Pines, NC for four years. This education led me to photography, the principles of which have been invaluable for painting.

It was at one of the many classes I took at The Santa Fe Photographic Workshops that I discovered encaustic medium. I fell in love with working with wax. Lisa Pressman encouraged me to try painting with oil and cold wax at one of her encaustic painting workshops. I followed her suggestion and found a new way to create.

Painting is a process of exploration and discovery. It allows me to remain a student and know that I can never predict what will show up in the work. Wonder is an essential element. This quote by Michael Mew says it well: "The meaning of a piece often becomes apparent only in the end. It's like finding a secret message that you unknowingly sent yourself."

All proceeds from work sold is donated to charities. By doing this, I feel that I am working on behalf of others. I currently have artwork on permanent display at The Museum of Encaustic Art in Santa Fe, N.M. I have shown work in a number of national juried art shows including The Painting Center in New York and the Santa Fe Encaustic Art Center.

Caroline's contact information and work can be seen at: <https://carolinemyoungstudio.com/>

Kathy Clark – oil painting

Born during the baby boomer generation, Kathy Clark is a true Charlestonian. She was raised during a period when families were large and incomes modest. Her fondest childhood memories were being with her parents and brothers on a dock crabbing, fishing, or spending vacation weeks in a rental house on Folly Beach. The Charleston lowcountry and its history have definitely played an important role in her life and art. Her love for the surroundings influences her paintings. She often chooses landscapes which reflects enduring feelings for the place she calls home.

She states she will always consider herself as an art student and admits that her art career began in later years after her children were grown. It wasn't until she was settling her mother's estate and stumbled on to an envelope of her mother's personal sketches and drawings, that the thought of trying to draw and paint entered her mind. She feels as if her mother had sent a message from heaven to bring her out of the grieving period.

Her artistic abilities have developed from a number of sources, including studies with the Gibbes Art Museum, nationally known portrait artists, Elizabeth Bronson and David Weaver, as well as local artists, West Fraser, Jim Darlington, Susan Mayfield, and Peggy Howe. More recent studies have been exploring palette knife painting with James Pratt, an artist from New Zealand, and figure drawing with Karen Vecchioni.

Clark's work is a combination of impressionism with a touch of realism. She does not follow any defined approach. It is derived from a confluence of varied sources of inspiration. She connects with the subject and brings out the beauty of its meaning.

Kathy's contact and work can be seen at: <https://www.kathyclarkfineart.com/>

Clear View Farm, 105 Smith Road, Landrum

Mary Verrandeaux - painting

I've been an artist ever since I can remember. Drawing and creating my entire life. After graduating with honors from Ringling College of Art & Design in 1983, I founded Verrandeaux Visual Communications, an international advertising agency which was a very fast-paced and stressful 21 years. With the help of my husband, Bob, the business grew employing 13 artists with international and domestic companies. In 2008 I sold the business to focus on fine art, portraits, commissions, and landscapes.

Since selling the advertising agency, I have done hundreds of portraits, commissions, and landscapes. I've illustrated children's books, and numerous book covers. I have been selected as a cover artist for the Hampton Classic, countless horse show covers and posters for the horse show circuits.

I am a strong community leader and love to see the arts grow in the communities I love so much. I've donated my time and expertise for charities and the arts, winning numerous awards for my work. I continue to work and accept commissions as a fine artist.

Mary Verrandeaux
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352-266-7885

Accepting commissions.
www.maryverrandeaux.com
www.facebook.com/verrandeaux

Leslie Lakes – mixed media, photography, shadow art boxes

Born in Summit, NJ, I grew up during the late 50's – early 60's in an artistic Bohemian household in Greenwich Village, NYC. My mother was a fashion designer and my father a metallurgical engineer. While growing up in NYC, I attended the Greenwich House School of Pottery and Painting (Jones Street), as well as the Greenwich House School of Music (Barrow Street). In 1967, my family relocated to Paris, France where I schooled at the Lycee International in St. Germain-en-Laye, before returning to the States to continue my education.

While oftentimes described as a "Renaissance woman" and apart from a diversified business background, I'm also an established writer, former singer/songwriter/performer for children, and enjoy being vitally active in community affairs and various fund-raising events. In 2015, I founded a Marin County 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Project called P.A.T.H. (Prison Arts Touching Hearts) working with incarcerated artists throughout the U.S.

My artwork (which has been sold in the U.S. and abroad and exhibited in various galleries within the Eastern Tri-State area, as well Marin, West Marin and Mendocino Counties, CA) is mainly gestural in style; at once lively, witty, whimsical, quirky, free, and fluid in nature; while combining my love of anything nostalgic (i.e., antique sheet music, vintage fashion ads, etc.), nature, animals, music, dance and poetry themes. I sincerely hope my artwork tickles your senses and makes you laugh and smile.

I currently live in Greenville, SC with my husband and two cats.

My work (whether two or three dimensional; mixed media, shadow art boxes, drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography) is conceptual in the sense that I contemplate an idea for a long while before commencing execution, and like life itself, the creative art process is largely organic.

With everything, I strive to create work that is at once classy witty, playful, whimsical, and sometimes interactive. And most usually combines my love of anything nostalgic and/or of an antique and vintage nature, including vintage photographs, ephemera, as well as animals, music, dance, poetry themes.

Leslie can be reached at: lesdricks@gmail.com or via Phone: 973-650-7931

Clear View Farm, 105 Smith Road, Landrum

Manfred Walter – woodworking

We bought our beautiful woodland property in Polk County, NC in 1971. It took us until 2002 before we moved here and built our home. By that time, we had already renovated two homes. I was one of the volunteers that helped build a Great Lakes' Schooner in Milwaukee and I had accumulated a lot of skills and knowledge about woodworking along with the necessary tools. After finishing the interior trim for our home, I continued to make small furniture pieces, a built-in bookshelf, a desk, and cabinets for that custom look. That done, what should I do next? Inspiration and the raw material of oak, maple, pine, holly and other woods were right outside my door. I had the tools and my workshop, so I just kept making things, creating big and small, useful, and whimsical pieces. I am retired, I have the time and I love woodworking. Being engaged in this creative endeavor keeps me happy and ready to start each day with joy.

Each piece that I make is unique. The basic design may be the same but every one of the trays, stools or benches, the trees, angels, Santas and others have characteristics of their own determined by the type of wood used and I try to bring that out. I mainly sell by word of mouth. I also have donated pieces for auction to Conserving Carolina, the land trust that holds a conservation easement on our property, and I exhibit and sell at the Tryon Painters and Sculptors Gallery.

Manfred can be reached at: Waltermanfred37@gmail.com
PH: 828 894-0197

Christel Walker – weaving

I like to claim that weaving is in my DNA. For a time after and during the 2 nd World War young women in Germany would gather in weaving rooms. Each would get a turn to work on the loom to weave towels, sheets and yardage for household goods and their dowry. I faintly remember my mother working on a huge loom set up in a room in our basement.

I came to the US, raised a family and life got hectic. I never got around to weaving until we moved to Milwaukee and visited Door County where I got my first taste of actual weaving. However only when we moved to Polk County did I get serious about it. Tryon Arts and Crafts had and still does have a wonderful fiber arts program, teaching students and providing an outlet for selling. I purchased two looms and am now only weaving in my home studio. I sell privately and through Tryon painters and Sculptors.

I mostly weave scarves, small rugs, blankets, placemats, napkins, I have made some clothing for myself, but I really love to make kitchen towels for family and friends. It is such a useful item and gives me a warm feeling knowing that whenever someone uses my towel, they remember me.

Christel can be reached at: Christel.e.walter@gmail.com
PH: 864 310 0388

Pleasant Hill Farm, 111 South Phillips, Columbus, NC

Kathryn Gillie – Collage

Kathryn's full-time job in the family's industrial insulation business never fed her creative appetite, so she became a self-professed "Serial Crafter" in her spare time. Always drawn to art, she has dabbled in many a medium. Her family has always fully supported her ever-changing projects.

In 2014, she was invited to a wine and art evening with friends where she was introduced to collage. "Magazines and glue" soon took over half of the kitchen and spilled into the dining room. When her son went to college, his room became the art room. Since then, Kathryn has developed (through trial-and-error) her own unique style of collage concentrating on animals and pet portraits.

Thank you for looking! More of art can be found by searching Kathryn Gillie Collage Art on Instagram and Facebook
Contact me with your portrait ideas
katcgillie@gmail.com
PH: 864.590.4005

Jennifer Brown – photography

Jennifer, a busy wife, and mother of three, is the owner of Destination Bound Photography. Photography is her true passion, and she is a self-taught nature photographer. Many of her photos are inspired by her hiking, camping and overlanding adventures she shares with her family, and she is excited to be included in this barn tour so she can share her passion with other people. Her goal is to inspire us to venture outside to find the beauty that surrounds us daily.

Her work can be viewed on Instagram
[@destinationboundphotography](https://www.instagram.com/destinationboundphotography)
You can reach her at Ph# 828-691-7002
destinationboundphotography@gmail.com

The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run, 385 Blackwood Road, Columbus, NC

Susan McDade – Pottery

Susan McDade is a ceramic artist and Tryon Arts & Crafts School Clay Studio Assistant. Susan first fell in love with clay in high school, and pursued her passion through education, earning a BFA from West Virginia University and an MFA from Ohio University. From there, she went on to teach at Spirit Square Center for the Arts in Charlotte, NC, while exhibiting in juried shows and art fairs.

With the birth of her daughter in 1993, she decided to pursue a path with less travel. She obtained her real estate license and became a Relocation Corporate Accounts Manager for one of the top firms in Charlotte, managing and cultivating group moves for corporations. In 2020, Susan decided clay was missing in her life. She returned to the studio at SASi (Southern Arts Society) in Kings Mountain and started making art again. She retired from real estate and moved to Tryon with her husband Doug, and dog Casey. She now calls Tryon and TACS home.

ARTISTS STATEMENT:

There is no other medium like clay! It has fluidity and plasticity that allow you to bring ideas to life in 3D. I enjoy working with a material taken from the earth and drawing on a craft tradition that has been used for hundreds of years to create useful items for day to day living.

My ceramic forms are influenced by nature. I spent a lot of time in the mountains and on the rivers growing up in West Virginia and have spent much of my time at the beach in my adult years. I love the flow of water, the undulation of the mountains, and the delicate beauty of flowers. Weather the overall form of my work has movement, or the movement is on the forms surface, I want to capture the animation of nature. My hope is that the collector of my pots feels the movement in each piece when they use it.

Susan can be reached at: agentmcdade@gmail.com

Monica Stevenson – Photography

Monica Stevenson’s fine art draws from her knowledge of the rich history of the equestrian tradition as well as her ability to apply this to contemporary art. Monica Stevenson Equine photography is a celebration of the horse and equestrian life. Featuring horses and all things equestrian, Stevenson’s work is a graceful compilation of her passions, creating collections that leave lasting impressions of well researched and carefully crafted photographs.

Monica is based in both Tryon, North Carolina, and New York City. Both these locales spur her with creative inspiration. NYC is abuzz with global artistic influences, and the foothills of North Carolina is where she rides and trains her Dutch Warmblood mare, Zoe, at the FEI levels of dressage. Monica Stevenson’s Fine Art Equine Photography Collections Focus on a Subject Forever Integral to Her Life: Horses.

Sanctuary in Bloom : the Flora and Fauna of Red Bell Run

“Passion begets passion, beauty begets beauty”....is an impression of Monica Stevenson’s that led to the photographs for this exhibition. The source of inspiration for the work is the affection for and dedication to the animals and plants that thrive at The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run, owned by Mary Adams.

Given Monica’s sensitivity as an image-maker, it is impossible for her not to be heavily influenced by the power of Mary’s devotion. Monica’s intention was to translate this ardor onto paper in her own language—the visual one. The resulting artworks are dense photographic collages combining the ubiquitous allure of flowers and plants with her thoughtfully captured portraits of these beloved animals.

As with much of her work, Monica leaned heavily on her own collaborative spirit and the very generous nature of her artistic partners for this project--Preston Wainwright, a floral designer, Thomas Ignatius, and Sean Smith, both illustrative designers. Paying homage to the floral painters of the Dutch Golden Age, these pictures, photographed with a large format digital camera and hand printed, display an abundance of complex details, which are elements that form the glorious world of Red Bell Run.

You can find this collection and many others at:

<https://monicastevensonphotography.com/equine-photography-collections/>