

Willowing Arts

PROUDLY PRESENTS



Teacher Profiles

Please note: the art you see in this document is an example of the *style* of art produced by each artist; they are shown so you get a feel for their style. The images do not necessarily represent what you will create in their lessons.

Tamara Laporte

(willowing) - host

www.willowing.org

Hi, I am Tam! I am your host on "A Year of Wild Nature". I created this course because I wanted to offer a wild, nourishing and life-enriching experience to the world; one that celebrates nature in all its beauty, mess and mystery.

So many of us live our lives indoors and online, and I know that reconnecting with the natural world - through paint, through paper, through simply looking closely - can bring us right back to ourselves. So I loved the idea of painting nature: literally, texturally, symbolically, and inwardly too.

Across the year we will follow four threads: painting wild nature literally, exploring the wild within, nature as texture, process and material, and the symbolism and spirit of nature.



I'm super excited about this new offer and hope you have a great time on it! Here is a bit more information about me:

Tamara Laporte (also known as 'willowing') is a creative catalyst of thousands of beautiful people. She is a celebrated mixed media artist, art teacher & author who has been running her creative business since 2008. [Her work](#) can be described as "mixed media folk art". It ranges from whimsical children's illustrations to a more stylised fantasy art and expressive portraiture. Love, mystery, innocence, hope, spirituality, kindness and self-connection inspires her art work. Symbolism and layering play a big part in her work too; her paintings often contain healing themes, uplifting messages and inspirational poetry.

Tam believes that the act of creating art can be a gateway into healing and personal growth - often, [her art classes](#) contain an element of self development as well as learning art techniques. She is deeply devoted to helping people get in touch with their creative fire and would love to help YOU too to get in touch with the artist in you!

Deeply passionate and caring for the well-being of the world and its people, Tam works tirelessly to bring uplifting, nourishing, creative and empowering content to her amazing students all over the world.

Her work and articles have been published in several art magazines and books and she's been interviewed on many podcasts and summits. She runs a variety of popular art classes on her website which has over **92,500+ members** and grows with about 300 - 400 mixed enthusiasts each month!

Tam lives and works in the South of England with her handsome husband Andy, two magical sons Dylan & Elliot and her 4 hilarious doggos.





Kimberly Kelly Santini

<http://www.kimberlysantini.com/>

Animal shaped vessels holding fragments of landscape, generations of memory and space populate Kimberly Kelly Santini's paintings.

She dreams of these animals, then weaves in her personal symbols built from natural elements, creating distinctive and recognizable art. A daily painter since 2006, Santini's subjects are otherworldly, facing the viewer with a deep awareness while sharing ancestral wisdom and insight. Her work is uniquely recognizable and eagerly collected worldwide, garnering many honors and awards over the last 25 years, including a commission as the official artist of the 2015 Kentucky Derby.



Santini uses intuitive, direct painting, infusing her art with joy and intention. She is a generous instructor, leading students towards mastering technique along with identifying and discovering ways to make art that feels relevant, sustainable and distinctively their own.

In addition to daily painting (still!) from her home studio, Santini runs an online student membership, is part of an intimate critique group with a 40 year history, and a voracious reader who cultivates dahlias, zinnias and heirloom roses. The thumb area of Michigan is home where she, her husband and menagerie of rescue pets live just close enough to their adult children and extended family.



Dawn Vander Stoep

www.dawnvanderstoep.com

Dawn Vander Stoep is a soft pastel artist and instructor who specializes in PanPastel and pastel pencils.

She came to PanPastel after decades exploring other creative work. When she finally tried it, something happened that had never happened with any other medium. She never wanted to stop.

Soft pastel held her attention in a way that surprised her. It challenged her in a way that felt good. The more she showed up for it, the more it gave back. Eight years later, it still does.

When Dawn began working with PanPastel, there wasn't much guidance available, so she spent years experimenting, asking questions, and discovering what the medium was truly capable of. Today, she is known for teaching the why behind every decision. Rather than asking artists to simply follow steps, she helps them understand the thinking behind the process. Again and again, students tell her that PanPastel finally makes sense.



If you've only ever seen PanPastel used to soften a background or blend an edge, you're about to discover what happens when it becomes the entire painting. Rich color. Atmosphere. Depth. Layers of light that many artists don't realize are possible with this medium.

In 2025, Dawn was invited to the Golden Foundation for a two-week PanPastel residency, where she went behind the scenes, met the teams behind the medium, and experienced a side of PanPastel that few artists ever have the opportunity to see.

She believes the biggest thing standing between most artists and the work they want to create is not skill. It's permission.



Laly Mille

<https://www.lalymille.com/>

Laly Mille is a full-time mixed media artist and creative guide living in the beautiful Loire Valley of France.

She believes that art connects us to the deepest, most beautiful parts of ourselves, and that beauty and creativity have the power to change the world in magical ways.

Through her online classes, she gently guides and inspires like-minded creatives from all over the world to bravely shine their light.



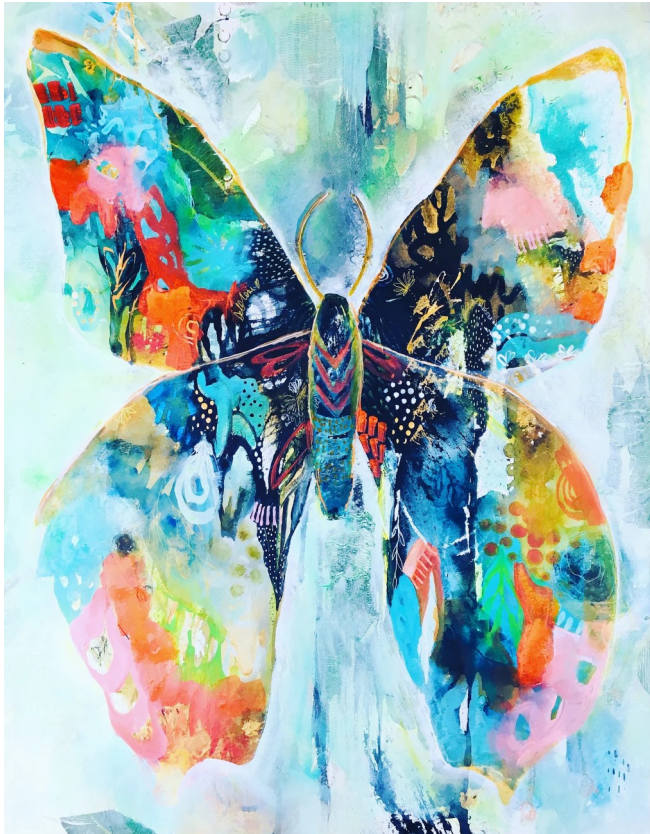
Laly has a heart-centered, non-academic teaching style and over the years she has supported thousands of aspiring artists to embrace their creative calling.

She can't wait to see you grow your artist wings too!

Tracy Verdugo

<http://www.tracyverdugo.com/>

Tracy Verdugo is a painter, author, and gentle creative guide whose “curiosity and wonder” approach inspires students worldwide.



Tracy’s joyful, color-rich work reflects her travels, her deep love of storytelling, and a life filled with family and art.



From her vibrant Jervis Bay studio in Australia to workshops and retreats across the globe, she encourages artists to loosen up and embrace possibility.





Toni Burt

<https://www.toniburt.com.au/>

Toni is a mixed media artist living in Queensland, Australia.

She describes her art style as spontaneous and messy, full of emotion and charm.

Her passion for colour and various media often informs her choice of subject, and she is constantly exploring new and fresh ideas – from portraits to urban sketching and pottery.



As a lifelong artist, and now in semi-retirement, she has dedicated more time to her practice, including integrating her art into my ceramic pieces.

Debasree Dey

www.debasreedeyart.com

Debasree Dey is an intuitive mixed media artist and educator, known for her love of textures, layers and vintage-inspired, earthy colour palettes.

A former IT engineer, she left the IT corporate world to follow a more tactile and expressive creative path.



Collage is an important part of Debasree's practice.

She works with layered papers along with fabrics and stitched elements to add depth and texture to her art journals and mixed-media pieces.

Inspired by nature, travel, and everyday surfaces, her work reflects a slowing down and a willingness to let materials lead.

Since 2016, Debasree has taught nearly 30,000 students worldwide, encouraging artists to trust their intuition, work with what they have, and create fearlessly.



Ana Paz

<https://www.anapazartist.com/>

Ana Paz is a Romanian-born intuitive artist whose rich multicultural heritage—Greek, German, and Ukrainian—has shaped her distinctive artistic voice.

After completing her engineering studies, she embarked on a life as a global nomad, immersing herself in diverse cultures that profoundly expanded her creative perception.



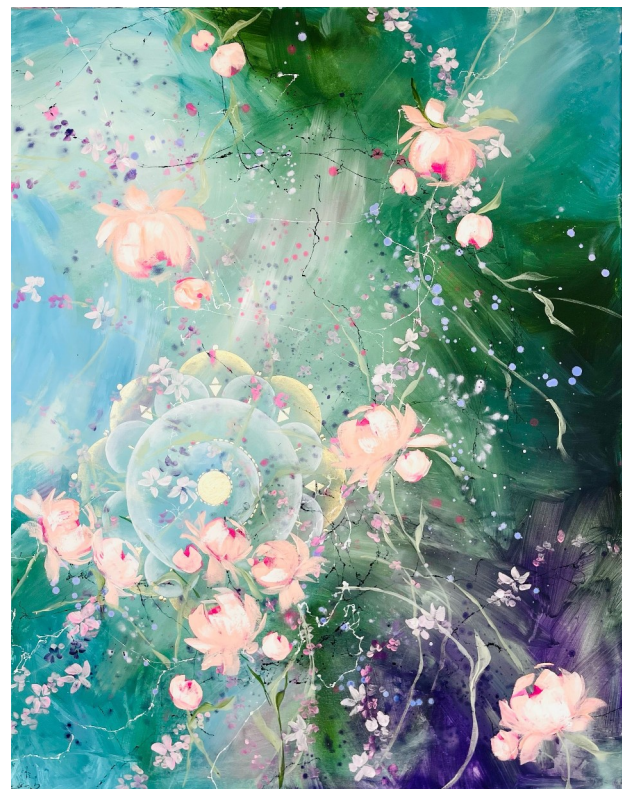
While studying Spanish philology, she fell in love with the vibrant fusion of Arabic and Spanish influences in Southern Spain.

A successful yet unfulfilling corporate career led her to a transformative path: she left the office world for Hindu and Buddhist philosophy, spending two years in an ashram that reshaped her worldview and artistic expression.

Blending the precision and structure from her engineering background with the fluidity, colors, and organic forms inspired by Eastern and Mediterranean cultures, Ana views the canvas as a mirror of the soul. She paints intuitively, guided by emotions and meditation rather than rigid plans, creating works that vibrate with energy and empower viewers on a subconscious level.

An experienced instructor, Ana has led workshops and webinars for Google since 2020, taught at the Academy of Art, Creativity and Consciousness in Italy, Paint Events in Zurich, and various international retreats.

Students choose her for her ability to unlock playful, meditative creativity and foster profound personal discovery.





Colleen Kastner

<https://www.colleenkastnerart.com>

Colleen Kastner is a South African-born mixed media artist currently living in Connecticut and spending her summers in the mountains of North Carolina.

She is mostly self-taught and creates abstracted landscapes and female figures using unique mixes of charcoal, collage, inks, acrylic, oil and even encaustic.

She is unabashedly nature-inspired, working with organic shapes, trained intuition, and serendipity.

She was given her first solo show in 2025 and has exhibited at numerous juried shows at the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts, RGA, RPAC Gallery, ALFA Gallery, and GCWS, and won Best in Show and two second place awards from jurors at ALHC shows.

She's an empty-nester except for her doodle who swears she'll never leave home - although she's scared of everything in the studio.



You can see lots of both in her Studio Diaries videos posted every few weeks on YouTube.

Colleen also offers online classes through her website, [colleenkastnerart.com](https://www.colleenkastnerart.com), including her unique Virtual Creative Retreats offering students a taste of a travel art retreat from the comfort of home.

Destinations include Paris, Venice, Cape Town and more. And she has a free Art-As-Healing class available on her website offering everyone the inherent healing of art and nature.

Dena Ann Adams

<http://denadraws.com/>

Dena Ann Adams is a painter, illustrator, and instructor based in Minneapolis.



She believes that art is a way to tap into mindfulness, joy, and connection through observation with our natural world.

Nature inspiration can take infinite artistic forms and paths, and she delights in discovering them through a varied, curious, and ever-present studio practice.



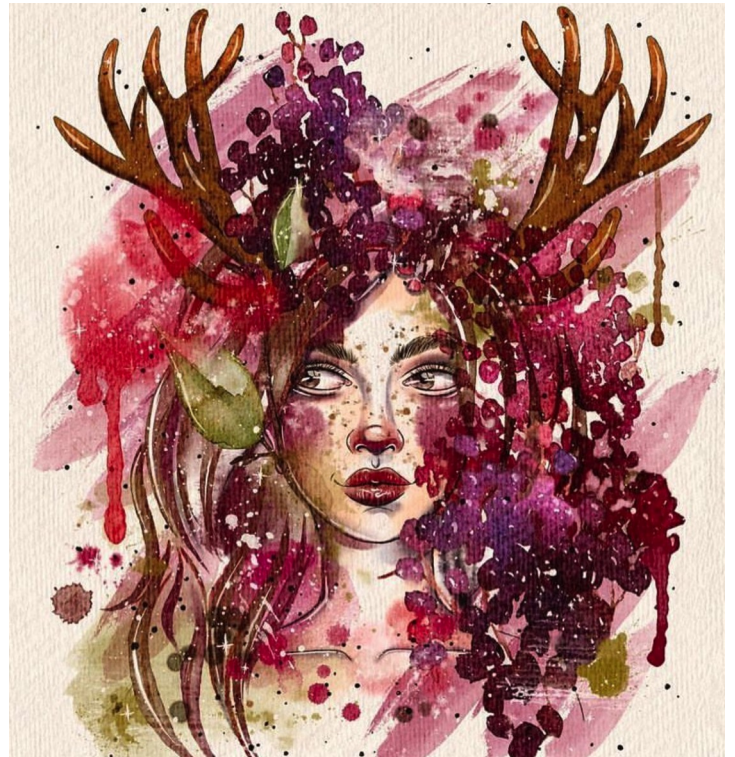


Andrea Gomoll

<http://www.andrea-gomoll.de/>

Andrea Gomoll-Wünsche is a multifaceted Artist & Art Instructor from Berlin, Germany, where she lives with her Husband Thomas and 3 crazy Cats.

Andrea is a multifaceted Mixed Media- & Watercolor Artist known for her colorful whimsical Style.



Her driving Force is to inspire you to discover the Artist within and to use Art & the creative Process as a Tool for fearless Self expression, Mindfulness & inner Healing.

She encourages you to let your inner Child come out to play & to honor and nurture your inner Creatrix through the creative Process.

Tiffany Sharpe

<https://tiffanysimplysharpe.com>

Tiffany Sharpe is a Minnesota-based artist who specializes in watercolor, mixed media, and creating unique handmade books.



With a background as a chemistry teacher, she brings a playful and experimental approach to her art, with a core belief that creative expression should be a stress-free and joyful experience.

Tiffany loves to guide her students toward finding beauty in imperfections and embracing happy accidents.

She shares her home with her husband, two children, and their pets, and often finds inspiration in her garden.



Christa Forrest

<http://www.creativesoulsart.com/>

Christa Forrest is a Southern California-based figurative artist with a passion for expressive portraiture and storytelling through paint.



A self-taught artist, Christa made the bold leap from a 20-year career in finance to fully embrace her creative calling and hasn't looked back since.

Her work is a constant evolution, a reflection of her journey to rediscover joy, identity, and connection through the figure.

Recently, she's been diving deeper into developing her portrait techniques, using color, texture, and emotion to bring her subjects to life.

Originally from the East Coast, Christa has exhibited in galleries across New York and Connecticut, and her work has found homes in both public and private collections.





Lucy Brydon

<https://www.facebook.com/Art.By.LucyBrydon>

Lucy Brydon is a full-time artist based in Scotland.

She creates illustrative paintings and hand-crafted journals inspired by folklore, woodland walks, and the animals and plant life of her surroundings.

Alongside her studio practice, Lucy teaches online art courses to thousands of students worldwide, has hosted several art retreats in historic castles, and exhibits and sells her work both locally and internationally.

She previously worked for nearly fifteen years as a primary school art specialist before becoming self-employed in 2019.



Working across watercolour, gouache, and painted leather, Lucy's work blends careful observation with imagination, drawing on Scottish folklore, children's book illustration, and folk art traditions.

Animals and woodland scenes feature heavily, often influenced by time spent walking in nature with her greyhound, Miso.

Through her work, Lucy aims to create gentle, story-rich pieces that feel inviting and rooted in place, celebrating the magic of the natural world.



Cornelia Zelinka-Bodis

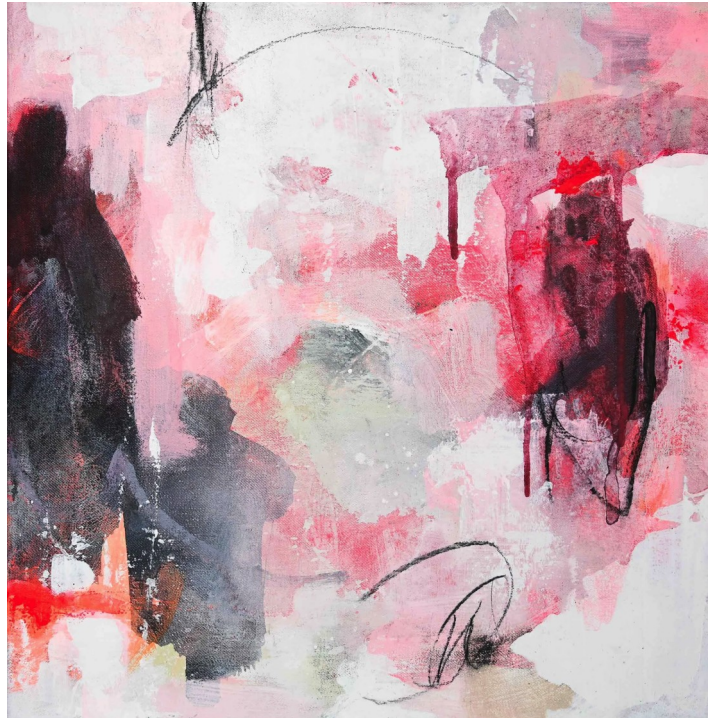
<https://www.corneliazelinka.com/>

After more than twenty years as a graphic designer and art director in advertising, Cornelia Zelinka-Bodis followed her passion for painting and now works as a full-time abstract artist and online art educator.

Working primarily with acrylics and mixed media, Cornelia creates intuitive, process-led paintings that explore the space between intention and spontaneity.

She is fascinated by contrasts — order and chaos, light and shadow, hidden and visible — and by the way paintings evolve through layers of marks, texture and unexpected discoveries.

For Cornelia, abstract painting is an exploration of both the natural world and our inner landscape.



She sees painting as a way of reconnecting with our own nature: the intuitive, curious and authentic part of ourselves that often gets lost in everyday life.

Through her teaching, she encourages others to let go of perfectionism, embrace play and trust the creative process, discovering that their most meaningful work often emerges when they allow themselves the freedom to play and explore.

Marie-Laure Delage-Carlson

<https://www.fleurdelysart.com/>

Marie grew up in the mountains surrounding Grenoble, the capital of Dauphine (the ancient lands of the king) in the French Alps.



She climbed the ancient walnut and oak trees and closely observed the ibex, marmots and foxes around her.

Allowed to roam free, she developed a deep love for nature early on.

It combined with the admiration for strong minded women passed down from her grandmothers and she tries to do justice to these two themes in her art.

Being outside is good for the soul and mother Nature is awe inspiring.

Traveling the world to experience other cultures and wild landscapes while trying to go back in time to the origin of humanity is a passion and sharing this experience with other like minded people is a gift.

She would love to share it with you too



Angela Murray

<https://www.angela-murray.com/>

Angela Murray is an intuitive abstract artist, creative coach, and passionate believer that every woman deserves the chance to rediscover her creativity.

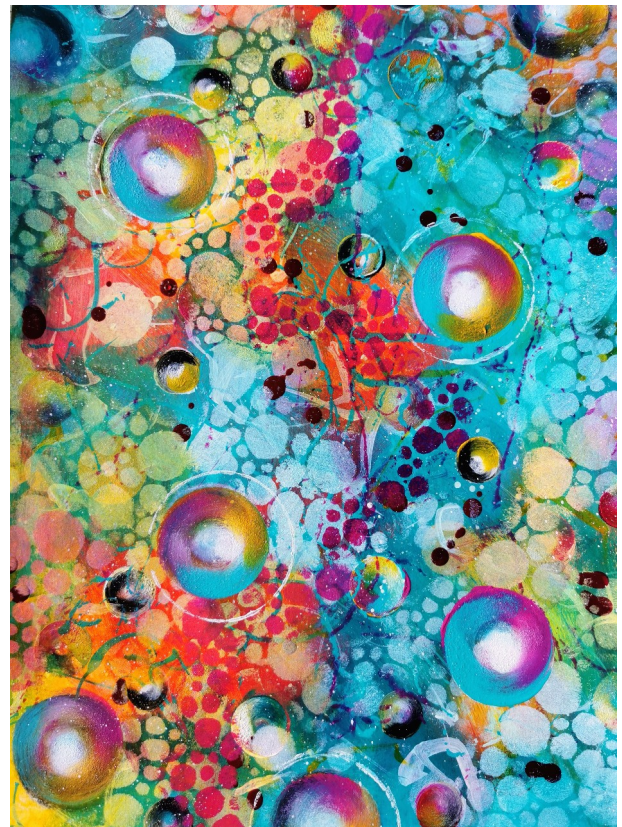


Originally from the North of England and now based in beautiful Oamaru, New Zealand, Angela creates vibrant, energy-filled artworks and teaches women around the world how to let go of perfectionism, trust their intuition, and create art that feels authentically their own.

Known for her playful, encouraging teaching style, Angela's classes are less about following rules and more about following curiosity.

She creates a safe, supportive space where students can experiment, embrace happy accidents, and reconnect with the joy of creative play.

Her mission isn't to teach people to paint like her, but to help them discover their own unique artistic voice and the freedom that comes from creating with confidence, courage, and a heart full of colour.



Laura Dame

www.lauramixedmedia.com

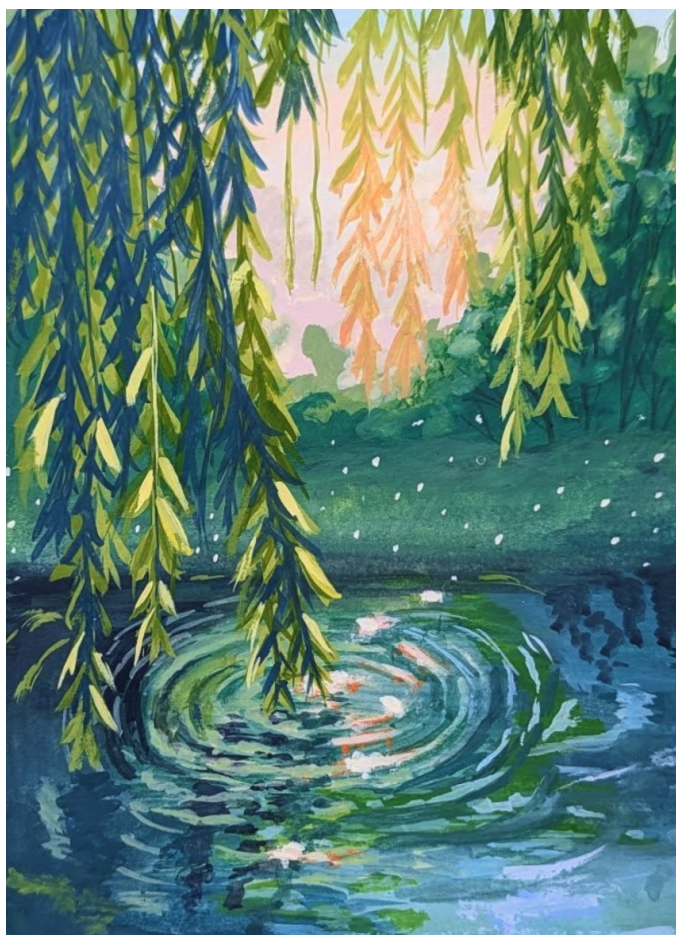
Based in Austin, Texas, Laura is a mixed-media artist, full-time sonographer, wife, and mother to two teenage boys.



Her creative practice centres on experimentation in art journals, abstracts, collage, and florals.

Laura's primary goal in sharing her art is to break down barriers, proving that anyone can pick up a paintbrush.

Guided by the philosophy that the act of creating matters far more than perfection, she credits her husband with nudging her onto this artistic path ten years ago—even if he didn't quite anticipate the resulting art supply budget!





Georgina Forbes

<https://lordydordie.com/>

Georgina Forbes is an Australian artist, educator and surface pattern designer based in Brisbane, Queensland, and the creative force behind the colourful brand Lordy Dordie.

With over 25 years of experience in art, education and design, Georgina is passionate about helping others build creative confidence and discover their own artistic voice.

Known for her joyful use of colour, expressive mark-making and uplifting artwork inspired by Australian flora and abstract forms, Georgina has built a successful global career spanning fine art, education, product design and art licensing.

Through her licensing agency, Jewel Branding & Licensing, her artwork has been licensed across fashion, homewares, stationery, textiles and giftware.



As an educator, Georgina is passionate about encouraging others to embrace creativity and develop confidence in their artistic practice.

She teaches workshops, retreats and online courses throughout Australia and internationally, inspiring artists of all levels to embrace experimentation, colour and the joy of the creative process.

Through both her art and teaching, Georgina's mission is to inspire creativity, connection and happiness through art.



Sarah Gray

www.funkyfossil.co.uk

Sarah is a UK based mixed media artist and mess maker with an addiction to stencils, textures and layers! She loves to explore different techniques and share her passion for creative play with others. As a recovering perfectionist, she has found letting go of the outcome and finding joy in the process of making art to be transformative.

She left a career in the corporate world to explore her obsession with inks, paints and collage.

With no formal art background it has been a long and colourful journey of experimentation with many creative detours along the way.

She has found her happy place in art journaling and abstract art where she spends every spare moment creating collage papers, adding 'just one more layer' and arguing with her inner critic!



Sarah teaches online and in person and started her own range of stamps, stencils and more – Funky Fossil – over 7 years ago.



Julie Sydenham

<https://www.juliesydenham.com/>

Julie Sydenham is a contemporary Australian artist, illustrator and art educator, and the founder of House of Jules Art Studio on the south east coast of NSW.

Working across painting, illustration and mixed media, her practice celebrates observation, storytelling and the joy of creative exploration.

Alongside creating original artworks, commissions and illustrations, Julie teaches weekly art classes, workshops and creative retreats, encouraging artists of all experience levels to develop confidence, curiosity and their own authentic visual voice.

Passionate about arts education, she is actively involved in community arts initiatives, public murals and collaborative creative projects that foster connection and inspire participation.



A keen traveller, Julie rarely ventures anywhere without a sketchbook in hand.

Her much-loved travel postcards and journals, created on location and shared throughout her journeys, have become a signature part of her practice, capturing the colours, atmosphere and character of the places she visits while celebrating the art of slowing down and truly seeing the world.

Denise Daffara

www.denisedaffara.com.au

Denise Daffara is an Australian Artist & Creative Guide whose work centres on connected creativity, intuitive process, and embodied presence.

Through layered colour, botanical forms, still life, and mixed media play, she creates art that invites slowing down, noticing, and returning to oneself.



Her work often explores still life, botanicals, beloved animals, and symbolic forms as quiet anchors for reflection and creative sanctuary.

Denise teaches internationally through online courses, workshops, and collaborative events, and is known for her calm, grounded presence as a teacher.

Through her work, she offers creative experiences that feel nourishing and supportive - especially for sensitive creatives seeking a more connected, meaningful relationship with art.



Her approach is deeply informed by nature, ritual, and years of lived creative practice.

Rather than focusing on perfection or productivity, Denise guides artists toward a relational way of making - one that attends to colour, form, subject, mood, and the felt experience of being present while creating.





Effy Wild

<http://learn.effywild.com>

Effy Wild is a Canadian mixed media artist, art journaling teacher, and writer based in Kitchener, Ontario.

She is known for integrating creativity with personal healing and spiritual exploration.

She engages with art as a healing and spiritual practice, and loves demonstrating how to do that! She's been teaching since 2009.



If you're interested in exploring her work further, you can visit her official website at effywild.com where you'll find links to all her places, or learn.effywild.com where you'll find all of her current classes.



Tiare Smith

<https://www.tiaresmith.com>

Tiare Smith is a Mixed Media Artist and Creativity Guide.

She helps women live more creatively, peacefully, and authentically through art, reflection, and meaningful community.

Her teaching focuses on approachable techniques that remove pressure and invite play.

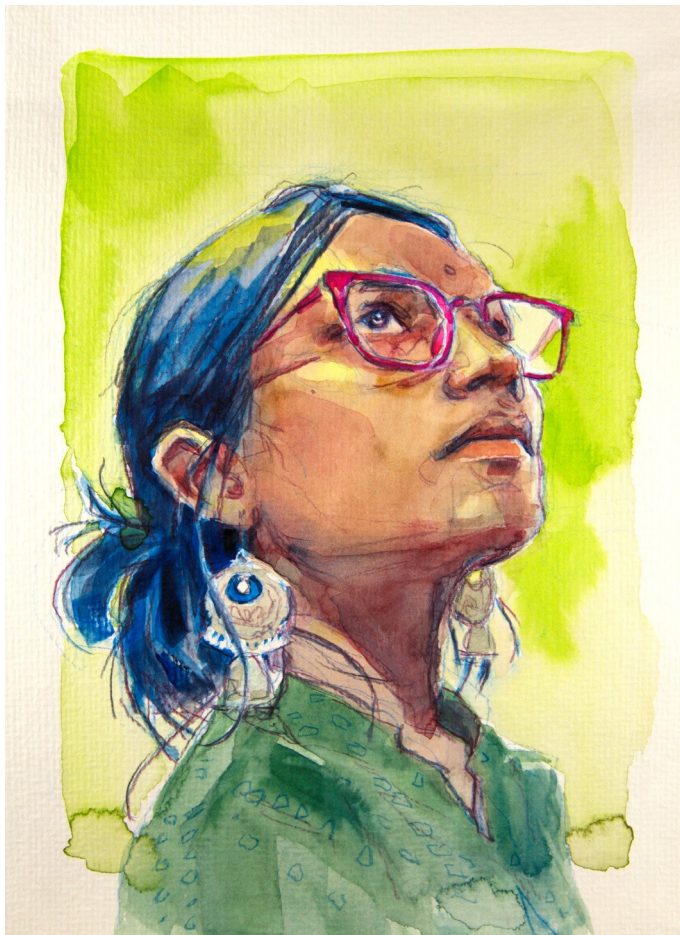


She believes creativity is a pathway back to yourself — one small page at a time.

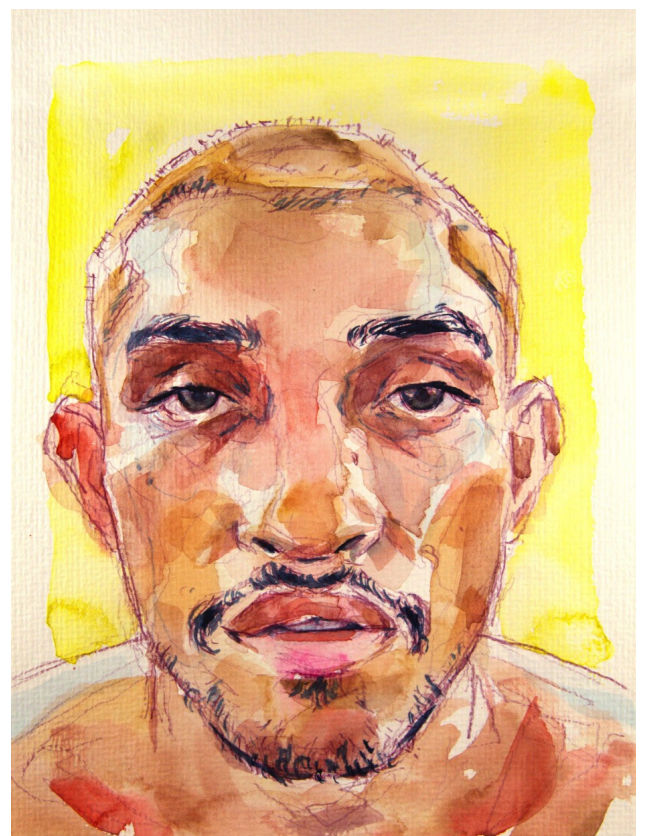
Dylan Sara

<http://dylansara.com/>

Dylan Sara is an Australian born portrait artist, muralist and father based in Göttingen Germany.



Dylan loves drawing and connecting with people through portraiture. He hosts daily portrait drawing sessions on his YouTube and weekly zoom sketch sessions.



He sketches people's portraits at live events, paints people on walls and cultivates connection and community through portraiture facilitating space where people create, share and grow.



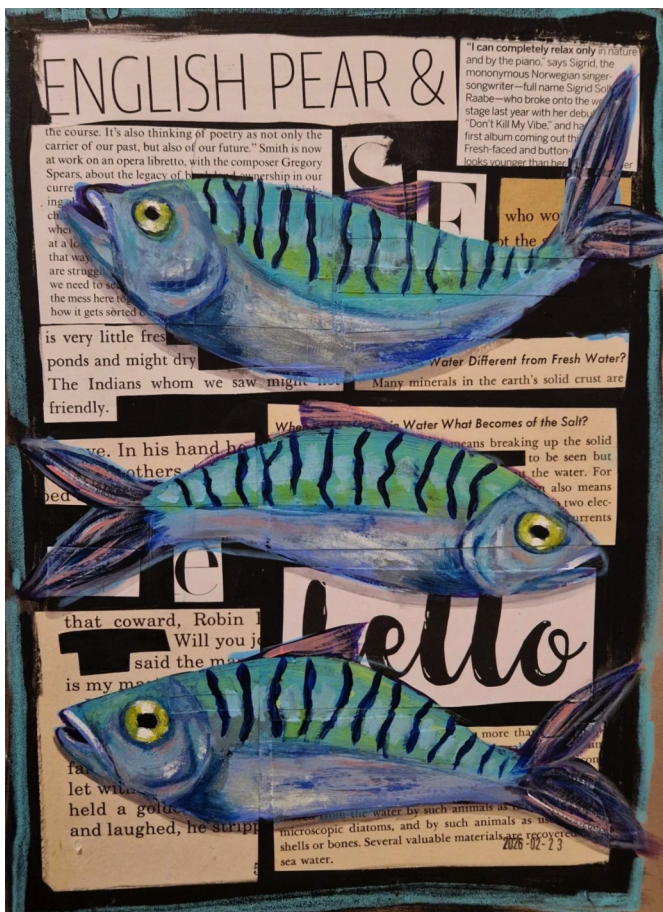
Tamara Łuć

www.ruskea.com

Tamara Łuć is a mixed-media artist and teacher based in Warsaw, working under the name Ruskea Art.

Her work blends whimsy, weirdness and intuition through mixed media.

Drawing from South African roots and a love of the absurd, she creates creatures and narrative fragments that toe the line between playful and taboo.



Tamara also teaches online art classes and shares her creative process through livestreams, videos and community collaborations.



Natalie Mecham

NatalieMechamArt.com

Natalie grew up in Utah, spending much of her time exploring the beauty from the desert to the Rocky Mountains.

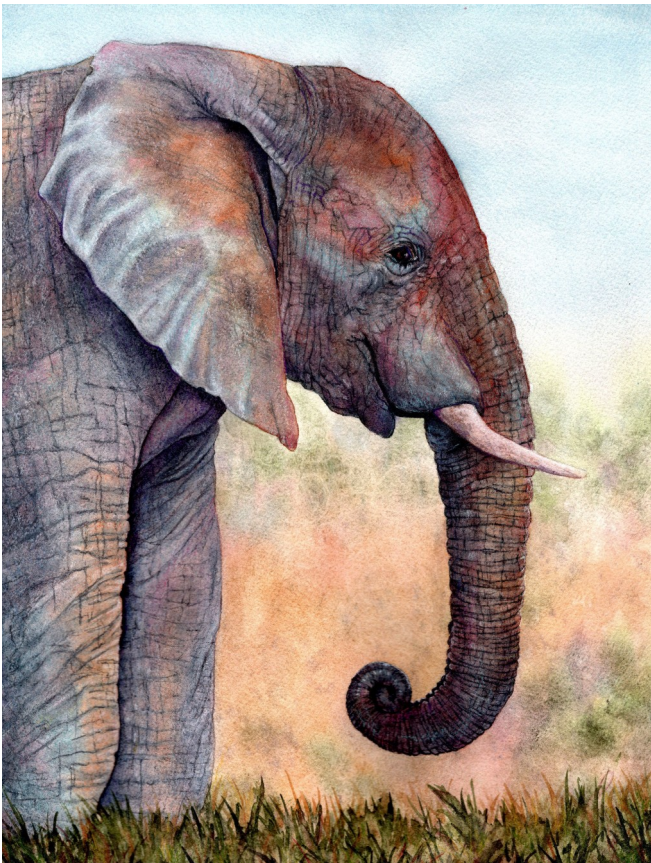
Her childhood was one filled with hardship but art was always her escape.

She was fortunate enough to always have a sketchbook and pencil in hand.

Years later when she was pregnant with her twins she was put on bedrest, this is where she discovered her love of watercolors.

She then found she had a desire to help others using her art.

She founded the group The Creative Kind where she hosts art auctions with several other artists and gives a portion of the proceeds to various charities.



The group has given over \$55,000 to charities.

It is her passion to spread a little kindness in this world and hopefully bring some smiles to others.



Michelle Werl

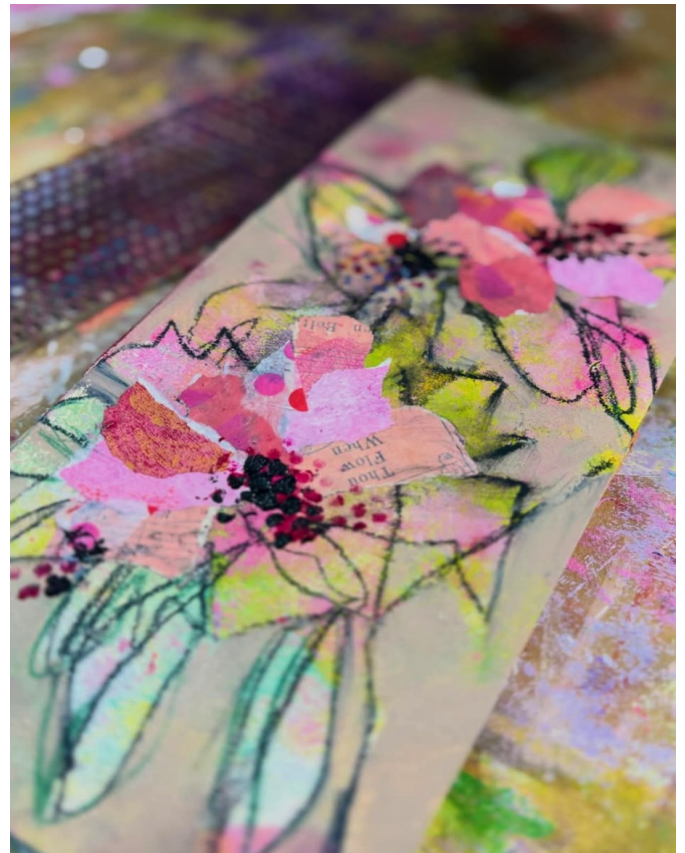
<http://michellewerlart.com/>

Michelle Werl is a mixed media artist and creative facilitator.

She believes art should be joyful, intuitive, and a little rebellious.

Her work celebrates bold color, layered textures, and the beauty that emerges when we let go of perfection and embrace experimentation.

For her, the creative process is a place to say yes—yes to color, yes to curiosity, yes to trying something new.



Through her art, workshops, and classes, she creates welcoming spaces where people can reconnect with their creativity, break the rules, and experience the joy of art without pressure or perfection.

Kim Dellow

<https://www.kimdellow.com/>

Exploring the world with open curiosity is key to Kim Dellow's art practice.

Whether it is through expressive drawing with coloured pencils or colourful painted abstracts, Kim likes to find unique textures and combinations of materials.



Mark making and experimenting are key to the stories she tells through her art, and her teaching focuses on encouraging others to explore their own unique expression through play and experimentation.

She has been a regular contributor to online art workshops and courses for the last few years.

Kim also runs a monthly art club – Sketchbooker – helping people to build their art confidence and get creating through creative exercises, sharing her art story and recent experiments.

Finding that deep connection between herself and how she expresses through her art is her current fascination.





Melanie Rivers

<https://www.melanierivers.ca>

Melanie Rivers, Tiyaltelwet, is an Indigenous mixed media artist.

She is from the Squamish First Nation and draws from her traditional ancestry in her art and classes.

She helps women learn to love their creative time so they can consistently show up for themselves and experience more joy, relaxation, and energy in their lives.

She is a trained Expressive Arts Practitioner and experienced educator of 26 years.



Melanie hosts a creative membership where women learn to paint nature inspired portraits.

She provides gentle guidance for women so they can experience the medicines of creativity and connect to their own unique voice.

Kaaren Poole

<https://www.kaarenpoole.com>

Kaaren Poole is an artist, author, and animal lover.



She works in several media including acrylic, watercolor, pencil drawing, and mixed media.

In her artwork, her subject is nearly always animals and her mission is to promote love and respect of the creatures with whom we share.

Currently, Kaaren is exploring surface design, but drawing with pencil remains her perennial favorite.



Ida Andersen Lang

www.idaandersenlang.com

Ida Andersen Lang is a Visionary Fine Artist and Online Art Teacher based in Silkeborg, Denmark.

She has been a creator all her life, expressing her love for the mystery of life, through art.



She also holds a year long tradition of passing on the light and joy of making art, through her online art teachings.

Ida loves all things beautiful in life and the universe.

Her passion is to express this through all kind of creativity. She specialises in figurative art with a touch of abstraction.

Dreams and visions, drawing and harmonious color is at the core of her art making process.

In her art she seeks to catch a glimpse of the mystery behind life here on Earth, and to trace the connectedness between all things in the universe.

A sense of being “in between worlds”, in a magical place.

It is also this magical and sacred place of art making, that she passes on to her art students.





Eulalia Mejia

<https://eulaliamejia.com>

Eulalia is a graphic designer, illustrator, mixed-media artist, teacher, and maker of stuff.

She lives in Colombia, South America and spends her days in her studio, illustrating and splashing paint on handmade journals while discussing worldly matters with her cat.

Her dream is to bring a little cheer to daily life.



She truly believes that we are never too old to be amazed by everyday life.

Surrounding ourselves with beauty is a great way to remind us that there can be magic in the world.

Join A Year of Wild Nature



[Join Here](#)