

# wma

wiregrass museum of art

Here at the Wiregrass Museum of Art, we take pride in our studio artists. We appreciate and value their dedication to enhance the creative expression within our community by providing direct experiences and interactions with visual art. Get to know our awesome studio artists below.



## Jacqueline Furlong

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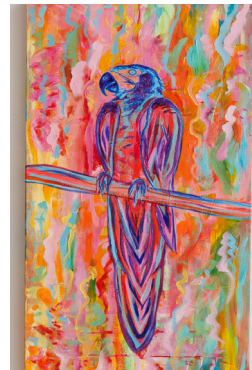
### Artist Bio

Color captivates my imagination. I enjoy figuring out eccentric ways to include the rainbow in my art. I didn't become an artist until a dirt bike crash broke my back in Cambodia. I picked up a brush to escape the pain and found my passion. I allowed myself freedom to create without the constraint of realism. I am formally trained as a scientist and that knowledge dictates my artistic style. I teach Visual Arts at Dothan Preparatory Academy and am able to share the joy of creating art with my students. I live in Dothan with my partner, two tuxedo cats, and our dog.

My favorite subject matter: skeletons, colorful animals, and landscapes.

### Why do I create/teach?

I love helping guide people through their creative process. We learn from each other while finding their own style. It is an honor to be trusted in this uniquely personal experience. I enjoy making the process less stressful for my artists and celebrating the finished product with them. I want my students to be able to practice on a regular basis without it being a negative experience. Art is meant to be a happy place and I am here to help my fellow artists find their way.



*Rainbow Parrot*



*Happy Gaze*

## Aimee Burr

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### Artist Bio

I think the broad label most adequate for me is fiber artist. I started off sewing dresses for my daughter, moved to quilting, then embroidery, onto book making, and have added crocheting. When it comes to creating, I have very little attention span, so I wander about from craft to craft. My favorite part of creating is learning and experimenting, so when I begin to feel like I am finally good at a technique or it becomes easy, I lose interest. That said, I love work I can hold in my hands, so I return most frequently to the embroidery needle. She contains a world of possibilities, so she quite likely will be the one tool that never bores me. Thank goodness for the needle!



### Why do I create/teach?

Teaching is creating. It is always an experiment and demands adaptation. It is fun to walk into a learning environment and pretend I know what I am doing; somehow people find my acting inspiring. While I am supposedly teaching, my students are teaching me so much! I know, I know, what a cliché! But there it is, I love teaching because I love learning because learning is creating. Hmmm, is everything act an act of creation?



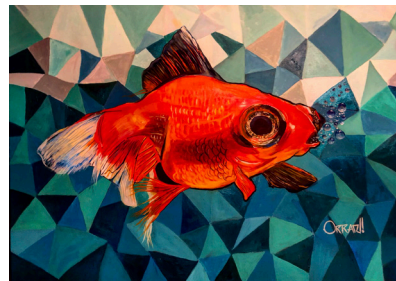
## Orran Scruggs

### Artist Bio

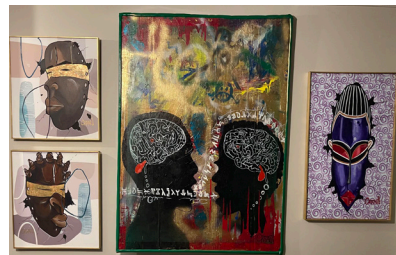
Orran Scruggs is a versatile artist whose creative journey spans over three decades, encompassing a diverse range of mediums. Beginning his artistic odyssey as a sketch artist, Orran has evolved into a multi-disciplinary creator, proficient in painting, ceramics, fibers, photography/videography, and woodworking. His passion for art extends beyond traditional forms, evident in his adeptness at urban gardening, where he infuses his landscapes with artistic flair. Beyond his artistic endeavors, Orran is deeply committed to empowering his community towards self-sufficiency and resilience in the face of adversity. Through his teaching initiatives, spanning gardening, screen printing, and graphic design, Orran shares his skills with all who seek knowledge. He encapsulates his mission succinctly, stating, "My purpose in life is to create daily and ensure the success of those around me! I believe in a return to the land and the renaissance of craftsmanship." - Orran Scruggs

### Why do I create/teach?

My high school art teacher invested deeply in my growth as an artist. Recognizing my talents, she provided unwavering support and encouragement, even arranging for me to have two art periods every semester. Her belief in me was transformative, shaping my artistic journey in profound ways. Without her dedicated mentorship, I often wonder where I would be today. This experience instilled in me a profound appreciation for the importance of art education. Teaching art isn't just a profession; it's a calling rooted in the desire to inspire and nurture young talents. If I can impart even a fraction of the impact my teacher had on me to just one budding artist, I consider it a success.



*Moor Fish*



*King & Queen Mask, Lack of Communication & Eggplant Queen*



## Brandon Rice

### Artist Bio

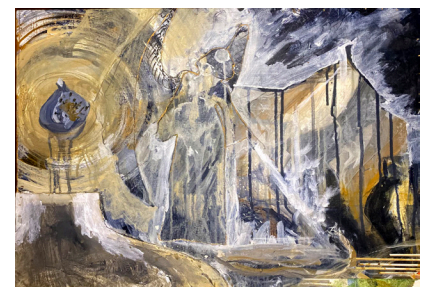
As an artist who works across multiple mediums, I've consistently recognized a common theme: "storytelling." Throughout history, humans have used stories of fantastical beings for various purposes, including warning of possible threats, explaining environmental changes, and recording cultural history through symbolism. Stories have served both as entertainment and as a means to shape cultural identity, a function they continue to fulfill today. In the words of C.S. Lewis, "He does not despise real woods because he has read of enchanted woods; the reading makes all real woods a little enchanted."

### Why do I create/teach?

Art and teaching are significant to me because they offer opportunities for individuals to transcend their own cultural backgrounds, beliefs, and struggles and gain insight into how others perceive reality. While the creative process involves becoming deeply immersed in a subject, teaching requires stepping back and guiding others to engage with the same subject matter. My passion for both art and teaching stems from my belief in lifelong learning.



*Architecture*



*The First Diaspora*





## Austin Smith

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### Artist Bio

I am a ceramic and portraiture artist where I explore different themes depending on the medium I use. With my ceramic sculptures, I explore the multifaceted nature of human existence through whimsical and surreal compositions that defy conventional boundaries. Drawing inspiration from the rich symbolism and innate curiosity associated with the animal kingdom. Through unexpected juxtapositions and playful narratives, I invite viewers to embark on a journey of imagination and introspection. In addition to my ceramic sculptures, I also explore the intersection of pop culture and politics through my series of portraits depicting US Presidents as iconic DC Comics Batman characters. Through this playful yet thought-provoking series, I reimagine these historical figures as superheroes or villains, each embodying the virtues, flaws, and complexities of their respective presidencies.

### Why do I create/teach?

For me art is a way to express part of who I am and my interest in life. My mind usually just hits me with inspiration for pieces and I just get the urge to create what pops into my head. I also love helping students learn to create and have a voice in a way they may normally not. To me that moment a technique or process clicks with a student is everything. It's the joy in their face when they connect to the process and come out with a piece they are proud of. I hope to inspire my students to continue even after they leave my class.



*Carter's Crusade*



*Journey's Pace*



## Kylie Parker

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### Why do I create/teach?

I have always enjoyed creating and exploring different art mediums. I have a strong love for clay, collage and fiber arts but am always looking to try something new. Teaching has always been one of my biggest passions. Art has always been a constant in life, as my main form of relaxation and expression. Combining my two loves (art and teaching) is the perfect mix for me.