

## *TRAFFIC BOX PHASE V ARTIST BIOS*

### **TAYLOR BASH:**

Taylor is an art instructor, who considers herself as the Worlds Friendliest Artist. She has had a lifelong love for art and does everything and anything art, such as face paintings, murals, art classes, and other projects. Her most popular services are Sip 'N Paints, adult painting classes and homeschool art classes.

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/xtayster](http://www.instagram.com/xtayster)

Facebook: Tayscreativeitems

Website: [taylorbash.com](http://taylorbash.com)

[Taylor's traffic signal box art is located at Fishcreek Road and Greenlawn Drive](#)

### **SHARKAYLA BENDER:**

Sharkaya Bender is a self-taught artist from Munroe Falls, OH. With influences of realism, she paints on any and all surfaces using acrylics. She also creates mixed-media work, as well as pieces with glass, clay, aluminum, and other materials. You can see her largest work of art, a 15-foot mural, at Green Valley Brewing Company in Hudson, Ohio. Sharkayla also participated in the 2025 City of Stow 'Women in Arts' exhibition.

Aside from watching episodes of Bob Ross and taking classic art classes throughout school, Sharkayla is a fully self-taught artist. She picks up tips through watching videos online and practicing different techniques. She also has a high school education with no formal art education.

[Sharkayla's traffic signal box art is located at the corner of Fishcreek Road at the Summa Health and Meijer intersection](#)

## *TRAFFIC BOX PHASE V ARTIST BIOS*

### ***AUBREE FORBES:***

[Aubree's traffic signal box art is located at the corner of Fishcreek Road and Stow Road](#)

### ***AMANDA BOOTS:***

Amanda Boots is a versatile artist with over 25 years of experience across multiple mediums. She honed her skills at Kent State University, where she studied illustration and graphic design for VCD Fine Arts Degree. After graduation, Amanda worked at 427 Design and then spent the last 14 years at American Greetings, where her creativity flourished in the commercial art world. Her work blends traditional techniques with modern aesthetics, reflecting a deep appreciation for both classic art forms and contemporary design. Passionate about community engagement, Amanda frequently participates in local galleries and art fairs, showcasing her unique style and connecting with fellow artists. Her pieces often explore themes of nature, emotion, and the human experience, inviting viewers to reflect on their own journeys. Amanda is committed to pushing the boundaries of her creativity, constantly experimenting with new materials and techniques. She believes that art has the power to inspire and foster connections among people. Through her work, Amanda aims to evoke thought and emotion, making her art a personal experience for each viewer. Dedicated to her craft, Amanda Boots continues to leave a lasting impression on the art community.

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dirtycatdesign](http://www.instagram.com/dirtycatdesign)

[Amanda's traffic signal box art is located at the corner of Hudson Drive and Commerce Drive](#)

## *TRAFFIC BOX PHASE V ARTIST BIOS*

### ***DEBBIE FILING:***

A lifelong resident of Stow and a proud mom to two beautiful daughters, Gabby and Dani. Her love for crafting started early, back in her Girl Scout days at Indian Trail School with her mom, Joanna Bennett, by her side. These days, you'll often find her camping, visiting National Parks, catching a Dave Matthews Concert, or in her craft room with her Cricut and sublimation printer, making everything from t-shirts and mugs to decals and bags. She is also a big DIYer – she even took on a full bathroom renovation and did 75% of the work herself. In February 2023, she lost her dad, Herb Soyk, and turned to painting as a way to cope. She picked up a cheap watercolor palette and started painting blobs – just for peace of mind. Following online tutorials, she discovered how much beauty could come from something so simple, and that's when she found her birds!! Their silent expressions spoke to her in ways she didn't expect, and now they bring so much joy into her life. Sharing that joy has become part of her mission. She now offers watercolor painting classes, helping others explore creativity, cope with stress, and most importantly, practice self-care. In a perfect world, she would be traveling the country with her paints, spreading joy and reminding people that sometimes, all you need is a little paper, some paint, and a quaint moment to reconnect with yourself.

Instagram – Coming soon under DebiDo\_IIc

[Debbie's traffic signal box art is located at the corner of Fishcreek Road and L'Ermitage](#)

### ***SUSAN GRIFFIN:***

Susan Griffin is happily retired and a local artist in Stow, Ohio. Painting, drawing and anything in sewing that included a needle have always been a major part of her life. She has participated in many exhibitions over the past 10 years including Stow Women in Arts, Lake County Farmpark Quilt Show (multiple ribbons and the Viewer's Choice Award), Stitchery Showcase at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens (Best of Show, Seiberling Award, and multiple ribbons), Stow Munroe Falls Public Library Quilt Show (multiple ribbons and Best of Show), the American Quilters Society national show in Ann Arbor, Michigan and the Streetsboro Quilt Guild annual shows (multiple ribbons). She also won the Best of Show at the 2022 Fairmount Art Center annual exhibit. She has been in several shows held by the Layers of Textile Art guild from Solon, Ohio as well as exhibiting at Ursuline College, West Wood Nature Center (Geauga County) and the "On the Wing" held in Chicago, IL.

[Susan's traffic signal box art is located on Hudson Drive by Fire Station 2](#)

## *TRAFFIC BOX PHASE V ARTIST BIOS*

### ***PAM NICODEMUS:***

Pam has been an artist for most of her life, using various mediums such as paint, epoxy, wood, and clay. Since her retirement, she has become much more involved with art. A few years ago, she started trying pour painting, which had become quite popular. Being self-taught she says has its upsides and downsides, but she has discovered the joy of painting on canvas, leading to experiment with painting on just about any surface or item. She especially loves creating abstract art and enjoy using different tools to bring her ideas to life. As she has made more and more items, she realized it was time to sell some of her work. That's when she discovered the local farmers' markets, and she even had items in a few shops at one point. Her passion for art- both her own and that of others-continues to inspire her to try new things every day. If she had to choose one driving force, it would be her love for bright colors. So, if you visit her at the Stow Farmers Market on Saturdays, you will see all her art forms showcased in vivid colors.

Facebook and Instagram: Pamspours

[Pam's traffic signal box art is located at Hudson Drive and Allen Road](#)

### ***MICHAEL WEISS:***

Michael Weiss is a Canton-based artist who delivers an energetic flair and hint of magic with his work. Working in everything from traditional to digital media, his portfolio offers a wide-range of diverse art. His primary focus in recent years has been writing and illustrating children's books. His work has been published in Stark Arthology, Somerset Magazine, and Incite: Dreams Realized. Exhibitions include: Stark State College (solo show), Malone University (solo show), Ohio State Fair (Awarded), Trumbull Art Gallery, Summit Art Space, Salem City Art Show, Massillon Museum and others. He has won numerous design and illustration awards as the Associate Graphics Editor at Canton newspaper, The Repository. Currently, he is the Creative Services Manager with Stan Hywett Hall & Gardens in Akron, Ohio.

Website: <https://michaeltweiss.wixsite.com/illustration>

[Michael's traffic signal box art is located at E. Steels Corners Road & Bike Trail \(East side of SR8\)](#)

## *TRAFFIC BOX PHASE V ARTIST BIOS*

### ***JOHANNA GETIC:***

After moving to Stow, Johanna started to grow her family and her art began to take a back seat in life. But what she soon realized was how pet friendly the city of Stow and it's community are. With every outing, she would meet new friends who were always bringing their pets along! Seeing how much joy everyone had being out with their pets and families, Johanna's passion for needlework started to bubble again, only this time capturing real-life people, their beloved pets, and the special moments that define each of their lives. Each stitch weaves a story, whether it's a cherished family portrait or an intimate celebration. The delicate art of needlework brings depth and texture to these memories, creating timeless pieces of art. It's a true joy for her to immortalize these precious moments in such a meaningful, personal way.

[Johanna's traffic signal box art is located at Steels Corner Road at SR8 SB Off Ramp](#)

### ***JANELLE HERSHBERGER:***

Janelle is a passionate acrylic painter whose vibrant color choices create feelings of happiness. Her work is inspired by nature's unique beauty, capturing small moments in time and the reflections of the world.

She has completed several commissioned pieces and has participated in Northeast Ohio art shows. She also contributed paintings to the KMN Kathleen Marie Newman Foundation for a local fundraiser, showcasing her support for the community.

Her collection of owls connects with viewers by captivating a sense of wonder with their symbolism. Her latest sunset series invites viewers to embrace a moment of peaceful tranquility. Smile, it inspires others.

Website: [www.canvasesandcupcakes.com](http://www.canvasesandcupcakes.com)

[Janelle's traffic signal box art is located at E. Steels Corners Road & Steels Point](#)

## *TRAFFIC BOX PHASE V ARTIST BIOS*

### ***JULIENNE HOGARTH:***

Julienne's work is a study in color. This constant exploration of color is a strong component of her art and the imagery expresses her connection to the fundamentals of the natural world. Birds, dogs, cats, and equine of all kind seem to dominate her work. She has a strong love for florals as well. Julienne creates with watercolor, fabric dyes, acrylic, and oil painting. Her work is shown at Akrona Gallery and Hazel Tree Gallery, in Akron Ohio, as well as several other venues around the region and is in many private collections. Summit County Public Library, Peninsula Coffee House, Akron Children's Hospital, and Akron Children's Museum have purchased or commissioned work from Julienne.

Julienne has written and illustrated several children's books: "What Do Monsters Eat" and "A Walk Through the Woods".

Julienne loves to share art through teaching, she has taught workshops at the Akron Art Museum, Door2 Art, facilitated workshops on integrating the arts into curriculum and Digital Literacy for educators, and worked at summer arts youth workshops, as well as conducting an art camp for local students in her studio. She is currently teaching workshops with students on various topics in schools, facilitating professional development for art educators and working on community projects, as well as working on her own art work.

Website: <https://juliennehogarth.wixsite.com/juliennehogarth/team-1>

[Julienne's traffic signal box art is located at E. Steels Corner Road and Wyndham Ridge](#)