



## Women in Arts 2026

### Abby Battaglia

Abby Battaglia is a 15-year-old emerging artist currently in 9th grade whose practice is centered on learning, experimentation, and skill development. She has been in the Hudson School City School District all her life learning all the skills she uses now.

Working primarily in painting, she approaches each piece as an opportunity to explore new techniques, materials, and visual approaches. Her work is driven by curiosity and a desire to improve through consistent making rather than adherence to a fixed concept. This would be Abby's first exhibition, and she is excited for the opportunity to share her work in a formal exhibition setting. She hopes to continue pursuing art into adulthood and plans to enroll in AP Art during her senior year to further develop her practice.

This body of work reflects an ongoing process of exploration and growth, where discovery, adaptability, and visual impact are central to her approach.



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### Madilyn Bonner

Madilyn Bonner is twenty years old and has lived in Stow for the past two years. Growing up, she often struggled with learning, which is one of the reasons art became so important to her. While subjects like math and gym were challenging, art was where she felt confident and understood. Through visual creation, she was able to express herself clearly in ways that words on a page never fully allowed. After many trials and uncertainty about her future, she came to realize that art is not just something she enjoys—it is her purpose.

Much of Madilyn's confidence and inspiration comes from her Savior, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. As someone who has struggled with reading, including reading the Bible, she felt called to create visual representations of meaningful verses and stories from Scripture. She understands what it feels like to grow up feeling unintelligent and insecure because she learned differently than others, but she has come to believe that intelligence is not limited to academics. Hobbies and talents, she believes, are powerful forms of giftedness.

Through her artwork, Madilyn hopes to grow in her relationship with God while also creating space for those who are unsure about Him. She believes God is for everyone, including those who learn differently. She is currently pursuing an online degree in Creative Digital Media at Indiana Wesleyan University. Her goal is to build a career in California as a creative director while also establishing her own art business and glorifying God through it all.



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### **Shannon Sinclair Casey**

Stow graduate Shannon Sinclair Casey has been using oils, pastels and mixed media to tell her stories for about 25 years. She received a B.A. in Journalism and minor in Studio Art from Kent State University and studied portrait painting with Joseph Cintron at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Shannon's artwork has been included in many local exhibitions and juried shows including at Cleveland Hopkins Airport, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Peg's Gallery in Hudson and Summit ArtSpace. She looks to God as her source of inspiration



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### Lavonne Fawcett

Lavonne has always loved art, creating, and coloring outside the lines. Drawing inspiration from nature, she brings the beauty of the outdoors inside so it can be enjoyed year-round. By using bright colors and unique designs, her work is meant to lift spirits and brighten every room. Her designs are created through the repurposing and recycling of materials such as old windows, window screens, glass, metal, wire, stones, beads, clay, glazes, antique barnwood, seashells, crushed glass, and more.

She and her family grew up in Stow and graduated from Stow High School. After returning to the area, she and her husband purchased their home in 1992.

### Exhibitions:

- March 2025 – *Level Ground: A Stow Celebration of Women in the Arts*



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### Care Hanson

Care Hanson is a visual artist with an eclectic practice that includes expressive acrylic abstracts on canvas, mixed media on recycled cardboard, nature mandalas and hand stitching. She thrives on color exploration, using intuition and a spirit of 'just try'

Care has lived in Stow since 1993 and finds endless inspiration in the parks & on hiking trails. Art play is her daily habit and way of life. You can follow Care's creative journey on Instagram@carehanson



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### Janelle Hershberger

Janelle Hershberger is a passionate acrylic painter whose vibrant color choices evoke feelings of happiness. Inspired by nature's beauty and magic, she captures small moments in time and the reflections of the work Janelle has completed multiple commissioned pieces.

Janelle has participated in northeast Ohio art shows, and also contributed paintings to the KMN Kathleen Newman Foundation for a fundraiser, showcasing her support for the community. Most recently she attended the annual craft fair as a vendor for the Hudson Community First, a local nonprofit organization that promotes positive youth development. Her collection of owls connects with her views by captivating a sense of wonder with their symbolism. Her artwork is currently displayed on the traffic signal box at the intersection of Steels Corners Road and Steels Pointe as part of the City of Stow beautification project. Her newest collection of hummingbirds remind us that we can be resilient and find strength in even the darkest of times. We are capable of finding hope in transitions.

Smile, it inspires others. :)

Janelle Hershberger JGH



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### **Tasha Lynn**

Tasha Lynn is an artist exploring multiple creative forms. Working in word, paint and photography, drawn to light, feeling, and the beauty of the in-between. A wanderer at heart, she explores adventure, intuition, and joy across canvas, lens, and page, themes also found in her poetry collection, flutters. She is honored to be part of Women in Arts, sharing an ever-unfolding body of work that invites viewers to look closer, feel brighter, and follow what calls them forward.



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### Jess Fishel McWilliams

Jess is a self-taught artist, photographer, and co-owner of The Sage + Lavender Collective in downtown Cuyahoga Falls. While her creative practice explores a wide range of materials including: small-batch hand-mixed concrete, clay, eco-resin, watercolors, and preserved flowers. For this year's Women In Arts Show, Jess' submission centers on fiber arts, with pieces that feature needle felting, hand embroidery, and added textures as suited to each composition. Her love for richly layered, tactile works shines through these pieces, which are grounded in her signature maximalist style and a deep appreciation for vintage art. Drawing heavily from the Art Nouveau movement and especially inspired by William Morris, Jess blends intricate stitching and bold imagery to create work that celebrates color, pattern, and the unique beauty of things made by hand. Each piece is an invitation to slow down and appreciate the intentional, heartfelt artistry that resists mass production. At The Sage + Lavender Collective, Jess nurtures a creative, supportive community, curating and collaborating with others who value originality. Whether in her shop or studio, her art sparks connection, curiosity, and joy in the simple act of making.

Jess resides in Stow with her husband, Dan and their two daughters. She continues to serve on a board of directors and a commission.



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### Mary Parr

Mary Parr has been a Stow resident since 1999. She is a Professor at Kent State University in the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management program, a member of the Stow-Munroe Falls Rotary Club, and a former member of the Stow High School Athletics Booster Club. She has been "playing" with art for several years, including photography, watercolor, knitting and felting and is particularly interested in combining media; particularly photographs with watercolor and organic material.



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### Laura Rath



Laura has always loved art, particularly impressionism and the use of thickly laid oil paint on canvas. Drawn to bold colors, she is fascinated by the process of using brushes and palette knives to build rich texture in her work. Most of her landscape and cityscape paintings are created from personal experiences, with many pieces inspired by her travels

throughout Europe and based on her own photographs. She also enjoys sharing her passion for art by teaching classes at the Peninsula Art Academy and the Valley Art Center in Chagrin Falls.

Laura lives in Stow with her husband, sons, and a dog who loves to sit with her while she paints—or during just about anything she does. To inquire about a painting or to follow her art journey, visit [www.LauraRathArt.com](http://www.LauraRathArt.com), email [laurarathart@gmail.com](mailto:laurarathart@gmail.com), follow her on Instagram at [@laura\\_rath\\_fine\\_artist](https://www.instagram.com/laura_rath_fine_artist), or explore her YouTube channel at [@LauraRathArt](https://www.youtube.com/LauraRathArt).

Follow the QR code below to learn more.





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### Andrea Schepis

Andrea Schepis spent 36 years as an art teacher in several Stow/Munroe Falls Schools. She received her BFA from Kent State University and has done post graduate work at Kent State University, Cleveland Institute of Art, Ashland University and two Earth Expeditions through Miami University. These expeditions took her to Belize and Peru to study Forest and Marine Ecology, Entomology and Ornithology. Subsequent to these life changing experiences Andrea began to depict species at risk of extinction and source materials for her work from discarded materials, including floppy discs, various packaging and plastics, to keep them from disposal and possible environmental issues. She hopes those that view her work will be moved to consider their own impact on our environment.

When not in her studio, Andrea works as adjunct faculty in Kent State University's Art Education Department, as a gallery assistant for Akron Soul Train, as a ski instructor for Boston Mills/Brandywine Ski Resort and teaching art classes in Stow and Hudson. She loves to ski, garden, hike and travel.



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### Nirali Schrader

Nirali Schrader is an Asian Indian–born artist who moved to the United States in 2007 to pursue a double Master’s degree in Education. Her experience teaching in classrooms inspired her desire to continue instructing and uplifting others, but through a more creative path. She founded Akron Henna Art, drawing inspiration from the city where she completed her studies and began her professional journey. Her primary artistic medium is henna — a plant-based dye native to India and admired worldwide for its ability to temporarily stain the skin, creating intricate and meaningful body art.

Beyond her commercial work, Nirali is deeply committed to community impact. Through her nonprofit initiative, Henna Crown Art, she shares the healing and empowering aspects of henna by creating crowns for individuals courageously facing cancer, adding beauty, dignity, and strength during challenging times.

Nirali’s recent public recognition includes acknowledgment from the Mayor of Stow, honoring Nirali alongside fellow artists who contributed custom artworks to beautify light boxes at city intersections. For this gallery, Nirali expanded her practice by blending henna-inspired designs with acrylic, alcohol ink, paint markers, and watercolor on canvas and wood. Her work reflects personal growth, cultural heritage, and the belief that art itself is a healing experience — conveyed through color, movement, and layered media.



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### Erika Spitzer

Erika Spitzer moved to Stow around 2008 and quickly fell in love with the area. She is proud to represent this great city through her art. She enjoys a variety of arts and crafts, with a particular focus on drawing, jewelry making, rosaries, and embroidery.

While she lives with chronic illnesses, they have not stopped her from living a full and meaningful life. Erika has a deep love for nature, birds (and bird-related questions), walking and hiking, photography, creating art, listening to music, and practicing her Catholic faith. Among her future goals are earning her pilot's license and learning to play the violin. She married her husband, John, in 2011, and they do not yet have children. Erika is also a brand-new small business owner.



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### Lynn Steffey

Lynn was born in California but grew up primarily in Ohio, where much of her family lived. Her California grandparents played a significant role in her childhood, taking her fishing, swimming, hiking in the desert, and cooking with fruits they grew themselves, including figs, apricots, grapes, and blackberries. She spent most summers with them and with her father in California.

After moving to Ohio, she spent considerable time with extended family—grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins—often on a farm. From a young age, she loved to draw, especially dogs and horses. In high school and college, she took advantage of elective opportunities to enroll in various art classes. She also attended art classes one evening a week while her husband was in Vietnam in 1969 and later took art classes at Hobby Lobby for approximately two years, until the instructor moved away in 2015.

In 1968, she earned a degree in physical therapy from The Ohio State University, which allowed her to work as a physical therapist in northern Virginia and Akron, primarily in critical care. She retired in 2017.

She continues to enjoy art, particularly drawing animals and landscapes using pastels and watercolor pencils, many of which she has shared with friends and family. Spending time creating art allows her to exercise her creativity and has become one of her favorite ways to enjoy retirement. This exhibition marks the second public showing of her artwork in Stow.