

## Traffic Box Art Phase I Artist Bios

**Nirali Schrader's** specialty art medium of choice is mehndi. It is the practice of using henna, a plant-based dye native to her India and appreciated around the world for its ability to temporarily stain the skin to make beautiful body art. She enjoys creating henna body art at Ohio festivals, along with face paint art, at home parties for all ages to enjoy. Nirali helps to share the healing properties of henna through her non-profit Henna Crown Art which gives another layer of beauty to courageous people who are fighting cancer. She also leads art classes online on behalf of Access the Arts, a non-profit, with the Medina Juvenile Center to share a new artistic expression with kids so they can learn to how to create works of art under her guidance. In late 2020, one of Nirali's works included a one-of-a-kind, hand-painted, and decorated door which was displayed alongside several others at the First Congregational Church in Akron, to recognize and support LGBTQ+ and diversity in the community. Her piece was inspired by her mandala-style art which is a favorite and is expressed in many mediums from customized artworks to brides-to-be in traditional Indian weddings. In 2021, Nirali's mandala art was showcased among 15 other artists for the city of Stow as a beautification project. Each of the artist's unique works was digitized and then turned into a vinyl wrap to be displayed on lightboxes at intersections. Her goal was to use bright and cheery colors to help bring positivity and joy to those who see it along their travels. Her work was highlighted by a visit from city of Stow Mayor John Pribonic and follow-up articles in the Stow Sentry, Akron Beacon Journal, and the Good Morning Cleveland news program. Also, this year, Nirali was pleased to have her work make the cover page of the United Way of Summit and Medina county's leadership booklet. In her spare time, Nirali enjoys dance and even leads Akron Bollywood Dance where she teaches her favorite moves with the energetic music which accompanies her favorite films. Nirali is even a quadrilingual, using English, Hindi, Gujarati, and even Sanskrit to teach and inspire art and yogic teachings.

**Cindy Cloud:** When not painting, Stow resident, Cindy Cloud, works at the Stow Parks and Rec Senior Center. Originally from Pittsburgh, Cloud enjoyed Saturdays at the Carnegie Museum. Her appreciation for creativity led to Art Studies at Slippery Rock State College. Her submission derived from her interest in gardening. Typically, Cloud paints with acrylics--a medium which dries quickly and proves forgiving. She finds inspiration in her garden and strives to translate the natural palette to canvas. Cloud hopes that her paintings give the viewer a moment of respite...a glimpse into her "happy place". Athena Brown

### Lilly Oldham

### Sheryl Aronson

**Kimmy Henderson** Inspired by the time she spends in the Cuyahoga Valley with her family, Kimmy Henderson has a varied portfolio that includes trees, botanicals and butterflies. Her collection expands anywhere from canvas and glass to wood and walls. She also enjoys teaching paint classes and helping others experience the therapeutic art of creating.

**Anne Geraghty** lives in Stow, Ohio with her husband Mike, their two children, Luke, and Isabella, and their dog, Stella. Though mostly self-taught, Anne has had some formal art education from the Art Institute of Phoenix. She also has an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from Glendale Community College of Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts from Kent State University. "My favorite medium is watercolor. I love collaborating with my clients and interpreting their vision. Although I do check in with my progress frequently throughout completing the commission, the final reveal is such an exciting point. Their vision has come to life. I grew up admiring a coffee table book that my parents had, by Robert Bateman. I love his realistic woodland creatures and have always been amazed by his skill. Our family pets were Scottish Terriers, and I showed horses, so these were the first things that I learned to draw. I must've drawn a hundred dogs and a thousand horses as a young girl."

**Georgi Rancour M.Ed.** is a product of the 60's and now a mother of four adult daughters (Doctor, Lawyer, Ph. D - Archaeologist and a Physicist) She has been an advocate for women and girls all her life. She has a Master's degree in Education and has also been a teacher for most of her adult life. She lives in Strongsville and has studied art in Italy and The Netherlands. She has taught all grades, pre-K through grad school, and is currently an Adjunct with Ashland University's Professional Development Services,

where she teaches graduate education workshops for teachers, and provide in-service training to local schools and districts, having trained over 1,000 teachers. Her most recent work was chosen to be displayed on the traffic box at Darrow and Hibbard in Stow.

**Mary Cay Jaworske** lives in Stow with her husband and twin boys. She always wanted to be an artist since she was a little girl. Mary Cay's art was displayed at Profile by Sanford for the Level Ground Exhibition in 2021. Prior to that it had been nearly 10 years ago that her art had been displayed publicly at a coffee shop called Common Grounds. In 2005, she was commissioned by Oreck to paint a series of caricatures on their storefront windows. These would be displayed for a month at a time during sales, special events and holidays. Mary Cay worked as a Store manager at Revol Wireless and created a new A-Frame advertisement every month that was displayed at the store front. This was meant to draw attention to customers. Eventually this turned into a company wide competition earning rewards for the most creative sales boards. After her twin boys were born in 2012, she started baking custom cakes out of my home. Now, most of her art is done as a way to relax or because something around her has inspired her. Mary Cay considers most of her art to be abstract. Her favorite medium is Acrylic paint, though she does love a good set of colored pencils.

**Marcie Shorter** is a children's photographer specializing in capturing classic, timeless images of your child's first year in her clean, comfortable, in-home studio right here in Munroe Falls, Ohio. She started Shorter Shots Photography in 2012 and has nurtured and grown it ever since. "Capturing these precious times is what I love most... because they won't be little for long."

### **Nancy Gregg**

**Care Hanson** brings a love of color and an intuitive, playful spirit to abstract expressive painting. She has an art degree from BGSU and has lived in Stow for 29 years. Care documents all of her art exploration on Instagram@carehanson

**Jenny Eisenberger** enjoys using bold, bright and vibrant colors in her artwork! She has been involved with the women in the arts through Stow, with my work being displayed at Fawn and Fanny in Stow. She has also been selected as an artist with brushes with cancer, which is a program that pairs a cancer patient with an artist.

**Michelle Droll**, a prolific artist born in Binghamton, NY, currently resides in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Michelle has earned multiple collegiate degrees in art, including from Cleveland Institute of Arts, University of Arts, and Kent State University MFA in painting. Her solo exhibitions include "Landslide: Between a Rock and a Place" and "Constructed Landscapes." Droll's works have been featured in numerous group exhibitions and garnered critical acclaim.

**Leila Griffiths** is an artist who draws inspiration from her travels around the world & personal experiences. Born in Scotland to a South African mother & British father, she was raised in South Africa & moved to London as a young adult, where she lived for 13 years. Stow has been home to her & her family for almost 7 years & she's very involved in the community, volunteering for a number of community organizations. Leila's art can be seen in a number of public places in & around Stow & she also owns a local business that promotes & highlights the arts community