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About the Artists



AIMEE GARCIA

about AIMEE

Aimee Garcia is a multidisciplinary Mexican-American artist from Kansas City, Kansas. Self-taught and passionate about art from childhood, she has nurtured a love of exploring mediums, with a particular focus on traditional drawing and sculpture. She has also come to embrace technology by incorporating 3D printing into her artistic process. Her current work focuses on subjects inspired by fond, nostalgic memories from her own childhood. Garcia channels this interest in her work by reimagining classic children's toys in miniature and seeks new ways to blend her creative endeavors with technological innovations.

[instagram.com/DreaminKinoko/](https://www.instagram.com/DreaminKinoko/)



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ALIVIA HALTOM

about ALIVIA

Alivia Haltom is a Midwest-based artist interested in large-scale fiber sculptures and printmaking. Her current body of work explores the space and change that exists between decay and new growth by manipulating found and fibrous materials into figures and abstract forms. She is inspired by the transformative growth of mold and fungi and visualizes these entities through modular sculptures created by needle felt quilting, and through the printmaking process of photo etching.

aliviahaltom.weebly.com/about.html



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ALYSSA MAE SIPE

about ALYSSA

Alyssa Mae Sipe was born in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, in 1999. Sipe is an artist currently living and studying in Kansas City, Missouri. Her work focuses on memory in relation to generational trauma, mental illness, and childhood sexual abuse. Honoring the use of hand sewing that was passed down to her by her mother and grandmother, Sipe incorporates the craft into her paintings as a method of transferring the emotional weight she feels within her family. Landscapes and notions of dwelling spaces that appear in her work serve as a vehicle to bridge her childhood memories with herself in the present. In her work, Sipe aims to create a space of reconciliation and self-reflection in opposition to past resentment and shame.

alyssamaesipe.com



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APRIL PUGH

about APRIL

April Pugh is an experienced artist, woodworker, and fabricator with over three decades of experience, currently leading Ingrain Studio. Her journey began with a deep passion for creativity, which led her to a woodturning apprenticeship, and her first business partnership. This foundation paved the way for a distinguished 12-year teaching experience at the Kansas City Art Institute, where she deeply valued the mutual learning experience with her students. Then, after another transition into full-time metal fabrication, Pugh was recruited to manage and fabricate large complex projects for visionary artists. Now at Ingrain Studio, Pugh and her small team of dedicated artisans blend traditional craftsmanship with innovative design, approaching each project with meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to excellence. Whether crafting custom pieces for homes or businesses, Pugh's dedication ensures that every project exceeds expectations.

ingrainstudio.com



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ARLYN JOHNSON

about **ARLYN**

Arlyn Johnson is a mixed media artist from the southern border of Arizona. Her artwork is primarily composed using encaustics, collage incorporating foreign text, ink, pastels, handmade papers, and antique ephemera taking the form of handmade books, banners, and paintings. Johnson studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and has continued to expand her knowledge and skills through classes, workshops, and personal exploration for twenty years. Her inspiration comes from her work as a project manager for a natural wetland and her varied experiences living, working, and traveling in Mexico, Europe, Asia, and other faraway places.



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CARY ESSER

about CARY

Cary Esser's sculptures indulge the materiality of ceramics and draw on the history of architectural terra cotta, producing artworks ranging from single tiles to large-scale installations. She has served as chair of the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) ceramics department since 1996, receiving the school's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2013. She has been a resident artist at the Archie Bray Foundation, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, the International Ceramics Studio in Hungary, and other venues.

Esser has exhibited widely, including at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Northern Clay Center. She holds an M.F.A. degree from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and a B.F.A. degree from KCAI. Esser was featured in the January 2024 Dutch ceramics journal *de kleine K* and the May 2024 issue of *IN Kansas City* magazine. She was recently awarded the title of Senior Professor at KCAI.

caryesser.com



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CELINA CURRY

about CELINA

Celina Curry is a multi-disciplinary painter based in Kansas City, Missouri. Originally from Allentown, Pennsylvania, she earned her B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2013. Curry's work combines traditional painting techniques with contemporary themes of neurodivergence, creating detailed, time-intensive pieces that invite deep engagement. Her paintings use familiar, traditional compositions to draw viewers into dream-like scenes from everyday life, where exaggerated forms and vivid colors evoke a sense of the uncanny. By blending nostalgia with the surreal, Curry's work challenges the fast-paced consumption of imagery, encouraging a more reflective and immersive viewing experience.

celina-curry.com



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CÉSAR LÓPEZ

about CÉSAR

Born in Coatepeque, Guatemala, César López is a Kansas City-based artist whose work is deeply influenced by his early immigration to the United States. His practice explores the relationships between navigational tools, immigration, and constructed realities. A central theme in his work is the concept of the model, which shapes viewers' perceptions, ideas, and expectations. López's art often reflects the complexities of identity and belonging within these frameworks.

He earned his B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute and has exhibited at venues including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Gallery Bogart, and the Charlotte Street Foundation in Kansas City; MDW Fair at Mana Contemporary in Chicago; The Front in New Orleans; Galleria Venenose in Mexico City; and MECA Art Fair in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

lopezcesar.com



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CHANDRA BEADLESTON

about CHANDRA

Chandra Beadleston is a ceramic artist and public educator based in Kansas, where she has taught high school ceramics for over 20 years. Originally from the Midwest, Beadleston has always been passionate about art and knew early on she wanted to be a teacher. As a biracial artist identifying as both White and Southeast Asian, Beadleston is committed to addressing systemic racism and equity within her school district. She teaches at a diverse high school and believes that education is one of the most powerful ways to improve society and create a brighter future for all.

chandrabeadleston.wordpress.com



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CHANDRA DEBUSE

about CHANDRA

Chandra DeBuse discovered her passion for ceramics in 1998 during a community wheel-throwing class at Down Under Pottery in Lincoln, Nebraska. She earned her M.F.A. from the University of Florida in 2010 and was a resident artist at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Working with wheel-thrown and hand-built porcelain, DeBuse uses techniques like incising, inlay, brushwork, and sgraffito to create playful, illustrated pieces. Her work, often inspired by the natural world, has been featured in several prominent ceramics publications. DeBuse is a full-time studio artist in Kansas City, Kansas.

chandradebuse.com



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DEAN KUBE

about DEAN

Dean Kube was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a figurative painter and works predominantly with acrylic/mixed media on birch panels. Kube completed a B.F.A. at the Kansas City Art Institute in 1993. He has had several solo and group shows in Kansas City at Weinberger Fine Art, Leedy-Voulikos Art Center, Blue Gallery; and numerous juried national exhibitions in Atlanta, New York City and Taos, New Mexico. He lives and works in Kansas City, Missouri, and is represented by Moberg Gallery in Des Moines, Iowa, and Weinberger Fine Art.

deankube.com



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EMILY BLAIR QUINN

about EMILY

Emily Blair Quinn received an M.F.A. in Painting and Drawing from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 2016. Quinn creates psychological landscapes in which figurines, dollhouses, and miniatures are metaphors for the mind. Using oils, she paints disquieting depictions of surreal domestic spaces in which shiny, melting, translucent, ghostly, and fractured figurines appear to be on the edge of a mental breakdown. Quinn uses dark humor and bright colors to engage viewers, making her work a catalyst for conversation that acknowledges and normalizes feelings of isolation, loneliness, and loss.

emilyblairquinn.com



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ERIC CONRAD

about ERIC

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Eric Conrad completed a B.A. in Mathematics and Fine Art from Kalamazoo College in Michigan and studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Conrad received an M.F.A. in Painting/ Printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2000. He has shown his sculptures, drawings, and installations nationally and internationally, including exhibitions in New York, Colorado, Rhode Island, Florida, Oregon, Illinois, Iowa, California, as well as in Hungary, Poland, and New Zealand. He has received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and a number of artist residencies including the Fine Arts Work Center in Massachusetts, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Anderson Ranch, ISLA (Chile) and Frans Masereel Centrum (Belgium). He created a solo public art exhibition at the Miami-Dade International Airport and was recently invited to create a large public installation as part of the SACO 1.0 Contemporary Art Biennale in Antofagasta, Chile. Conrad lives and works in Kansas.

eric-conrad.com



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HOSEOK YOUN

about HOSEOK

Hoseok Youn is a South Korean glass artist specializing in glassblowing. He was born in Seoul, Korea, and is currently based in Kansas City. Youn holds his B.F.A. degree in Glass and Ceramics from Namseoul University, Cheon Ahn, Korea. After completing his undergraduate studies, Youn traveled to Japan for the International Glass competition in Niijima Island and was awarded 1st place. In 2021, Youn earned an M.F.A. in Glass and Ceramics from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. He is currently a lead glassblower at Belger Arts Center. Previously, Youn worked at the Toledo Museum of Art and has taught at Bowling Green State University as an adjunct professor.

Youn's work has received various scholarships and awards including from the Corning Museum of Glass, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, Penland School of Craft, and Pilchuck Glass School. He is the 2023 SAXE Emerging Artist Award recipient from the Glass Art Society. His work has been exhibited broadly and internationally in Illinois, Missouri, Texas, California, Ohio, Michigan, Washington, Indiana, China, Italy, and Poland.

hoseokyoun.com



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HÙNG LÊ

about HÙNG

Hùng Lê is an interdisciplinary artist born in Đông Nai, Việt Nam. He and his family immigrated to America when he was seven, settling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Immigrating at a young age has caused a lot of dissonance within Lê's identity, which fostered his interest in memories, American culture, immigration, and citizenship as a means to understand himself and the history that precedes him. Lê received his B.F.A. and Asian Studies Certificate from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2022. He has been the recipient of multiple awards including the Windgate-Lamar Fellowship Award in 2022, the Charlotte Street Foundation Studio Residency in 2022, the Jesse-Howard Fellowship in 2022, and the Lead Bank Emerging Artist Award in 2020.

hunglestudio.com



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JANET HANNA

about JANET

Janet Hanna, born in 1934 during the Great Depression, is a lifelong resident of Kansas City and has always been an artist and maker. Also a wife, mother, grandmother, and Registered Nurse, Hanna's practice has enveloped various mediums, often blending artistic expression with functional purposes. From painting in oils and acrylics to sewing her daughter's ice-skating uniforms and crafting her grandsons' Halloween costumes, her creativity has known no bounds. In recent years, she had focused on medium- to large-scale mosaic projects. At 90, though her hands no longer function as they once did, Hanna's passion for creating remains strong. She now works collaboratively with her daughter and grandsons on artistic projects.



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JOHN ECK

about JOHN

John Eck is a practicing architect, professor, and director of the Architecture program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, as well as a ceramic artist. He holds a B.Arch. from Kansas State University and a M.Arch. from the University of Virginia. His training in clay began at Lill Street Studio in Chicago and continued at Stephen and Susan Hill's Red Star Studio in Kansas City. Working out of Rafter E Studio today, a nod to the name his family used for cattle branding, his work is primarily hand-built stoneware and explores geometry and pattern in the natural and built environment.

johneck.com



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KATE SCHROEDER

about KATE

Kate Schroeder is a ceramicist and full-time professional artist residing in Kansas City, Missouri. She earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Sculpture and Ceramics from the University of Central Missouri, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, respectively. Schroeder has exhibited nationally and has work in collections around the globe.

Before transitioning to a full-time artist, Schroeder spent nearly a decade as an educator in postsecondary educational institutions.

kateschroederceramics.com



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KELLY CONNER

about KELLY

Kelly Conner, the creator behind MeritMade jewelry, combines traditional metalsmithing techniques with a modern, minimal design aesthetic. Working primarily with sterling silver and gold, Conner often incorporates unique stones, fossils, and found materials, reflecting her scientific curiosity and playful spirit. Conner earned a B.F.A. in Metalsmithing and Jewelry from the University of Kansas and completed an apprenticeship at Kizer Cummings Jewelry. Her work has received several accolades, including 1st Place for 3-Dimensional Art at Autumn and Art (Wichita, Kansas, 2019) and Mayor's Choice at the Summit Art Fair (Lee's Summit, Missouri, 2018). In a world saturated with mass-produced, disposable jewelry, Conner's philosophy centers on crafting future heirlooms—beautiful, classic, and made to last. Every piece is thoughtfully designed with the belief that quality and intentional craftsmanship can create treasured, lasting objects.

meritmadedkc.com



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KENDALL BOLDEN

about KENDALL

Kendall Bolden is an African American interdisciplinary artist. She was born in Minnesota, relocated with her family to Miami, Florida, in her early adolescence, and received her B.F.A. in sculpture from the Kansas City Art Institute. Bolden's work explores the unsettling nature of dreams and abandoned homes as well as the pain she suffers as a result of her parasomnia, also known as night terrors. "The work is my reaction to these nightmares and a way to work through my sleepless nights. I want to give the viewer the feeling as if the walls are talking, and you are forced to listen." Bolden tells stories of her dreams through miniature environments and quilt making. She brings the feeling of abandonment from her dreams into the world, allowing her to reimagine the atmosphere and emotions tied to them.

kendallbolden.com



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KIM LINDABERRY

about KIM

Kim Lindaberry, born in 1953, is an accomplished interdisciplinary artist based in Kansas City. Lindaberry's work spans a variety of mediums and explores the dynamics of the cosmos, as well as the science, myths, and religions that humans create to understand existence. Through his art, Lindaberry delves into themes of creation, annihilation, life, death, and the paradoxes of existence. His humanoid figures are imbued with hidden meanings, serving as vessels for complex reflections on identity and the human condition. These beings transcend traditional boundaries, addressing both the search for individual identity and the need to belong. Lindaberry's work speaks to the past, present, and future, offering a rich commentary on both terrestrial and transcendent existence.

kimlindaberry.com



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KRISTINA PANOS

about KRISTINA

Kristina Panos is a self-taught miniature artist based in Kansas City who is known for her depictions of steely urban life, and for building tiny postmodern furniture. Panos' work often combines many mediums and usually draws from experience and imagination in equal doses.

Panos' art is heavily inspired by the past, but strives to be fresh and forward-looking. Her pieces explore life in the concrete jungle, straddling the line between the gritty outdoors and the clean lines of our interior spaces.

kristinapanos.com



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MACKENZIE FULMER

about MACKENZIE

MacKenzie Fulmer's background in illustration and interest in observational drawing informs her still life paintings. Living between reportage, fantasy, and curio collections, her paintings serialize daily life and depict her attachments to objects. She utilizes formats like zines and still life paintings as a way to catalog chapters of life and make discoveries about the individual process of self-actualization.

mackenzieillustration.com



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MELISSA GUADALUPE WOLF

about MELISSA

Melissa Guadalupe Wolf, born in Leavenworth, Kansas, and currently living in Kansas City, Missouri, is a mixed media sculptor whose work is shaped by her Mexican-American heritage. Her art delves into themes of playfulness, growth, and loss, often drawing from childhood memories and toys. Wolf's sculptures transform everyday objects, such as stuffed animals, by covering them in cement, creating new forms that evoke both nostalgia and reflection. Her use of materials like clay, textiles, wood, and cement reflects a desire to challenge the viewer's perceptions and invite personal introspection. Wolf's process emphasizes the tension between soft and harsh materials, symbolizing the passage of time and the solidification of fleeting moments. Her work has been featured in the *Inspired by Maya Indigenous & Latino Art Experience* exhibition at Union Station and *Reflecting the City* at Charlotte Street Foundation. She was recently nominated for the International Sculpture Center's 2024 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award.

melissaguadalupewolf.com



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OSCAR GUTIÉRREZ

about OSCAR

Oscar Gutiérrez discovered his passion for sculpture three years ago while auditing a class on the subject. He has been devoted to the medium ever since. His work draws inspiration from his studies at Johnson County Community College under the guidance of Mark Cowardin. In addition to sculpture, he works in other creative forms such as painting, writing, and music, viewing his sculptures as physical manifestations of his poetry. Gutiérrez is particularly interested in exploring new ways to visually express poetic language through abstract and unconventional methods. His creative process is characterized by trial and error. Gutiérrez also strongly relies on chance and intuition, which he finds liberating as it allows him to create without overthinking.



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SHAWN SANEM

about SHAWN

Shawn Sanem is an artist and experiential designer working in Roeland Park, Kansas. He received a B.F.A. in Painting from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2000, and an A.A. in Graphic Design from Johnson County Community College in 2003. Sanem has exhibited his paintings and drawings in local group and solo exhibitions, including a solo exhibition at the Leedy Voulkos Art Center in Kansas City, Missouri, and group exhibitions at the Holt-Russell Gallery at Baker University and The Drug Store in Kansas City, Missouri. Sanem's recent work incorporates pyrography and painting on found wood panels. He sources his panels from the sample libraries of architecture firms, where he works as a designer. An avid gardener, animal caretaker, and observer of biology, his work focuses on interpretations of the natural ecosystem.

ssanem.com



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SYDNEY PENER

about SYDNEY

Sydney Pener creates handcrafted metalwork and jewelry in her art studio ENO Metalworks & Casting. Her artwork focuses on the transformation of metals, the inspiration of nature forms, and the integration of vintage found objects in her work. By upcycling ornate metal antiques, her goal is to reinvent objects—to breathe new life into old things—thus, making them relevant and beautiful again. Pener’s artwork honors the traditions of metalworking and craft and utilizes a diversity of techniques. The end result is refined, one-of-a-kind jewelry and metalwork.

sydneypener.com



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THOMAS MUELLER

about THOMAS

Throughout his life, Thomas Mueller has applied his versatile skills as a builder to large-scale woodworking projects, creating unique and functional pieces. His work stems from a desire to build exactly what he envisions, whether it's custom furniture or smaller pieces like jewelry boxes for his granddaughters, complete with resin inlays of their initials. Mueller's creativity extends beyond woodworking; he has sewn everything from a white three-piece suit to a Mickey Mouse costume, which remains a cherished memory. More recently, he has crafted custom clothing for his granddaughters, including dresses inspired by the 1965 film *The Sound of Music*. His first foray into miniatures was building a 1:12 scale model of his granddaughters' house, complete with detailed furnishings. While he humbly admires the precision of true miniature artists, Mueller's focus remains on capturing the essence of each project's unique setting.



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TRACI FURAN

about TRACI

Kansas native Traci Furan is a self-taught miniaturist whose work blends whimsy, nature, and folklore. With over 12-years as the creative force behind a successful infant apparel line sold across the United States, Furan's artistic journey has spanned multiple disciplines. She holds a B.F.A. in Art History from Wichita State University and an M.A. in Museum Studies from San Francisco State University. Her career has included installing contemporary art for major museums worldwide. Now based in Lawrence, Kansas, Furan crafts imaginative miniatures, often using found objects to bring daydreams to life.

[instagram.com/littlebluestemplawrence](https://www.instagram.com/littlebluestemplawrence)



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