

For the Love of Nature – Exhibiting Artist Bios

Melissa Fabian

Melissa Fabian is an artist specializing in contemporary botanical art. Receiving a B.S Art Ed. led to 35 years of teaching art. Upon retirement, Melissa entered the Botanical Illustration Certificate Program at Phipps Conservatory, earning the certification and becoming an instructor for the program. She has participated in the previous three years of the Flora project sponsored by Phipps, which focuses on artists illustrating native plants of western Pennsylvania. She has served as a juror and curator of several local art exhibits. Melissa is a member of the ASBA (American Society of Botanical Artists) and AHSBA (Allegheny Highlands Society of Botanical Artists). Her work has been in several local AHSBA exhibits.

Melissa is also the owner of Wild Rose Landscaping, which holds an accreditation of sustainable landscape practices from Phipps Conservatory's sustainability program. Her experiences designing with plants has allowed for a positive impact on the landscape through her clients' projects. With her botanical art, she is looking to impact the public's knowledge and appreciation for plants and animals, encouraging everyone to support our ecology. She is focusing on our local community parks, city parks, and state and national parks as places for families and individuals to enjoy nature and all they can offer.

Anne Frederickson

I have always loved art, and it runs in the family. My great grandmother, aunt, and younger daughter are all artists. Teaching also runs in our family. My grandmother, my older daughter, and I were all teachers. I have been fortunate to do both—so fortunate that I could not say which I love more. In the first part of my life, teaching took precedence. It was such a mission that my art took the form of bulletin boards, desk tags, cartoony worksheets, and games. After retirement, art beckoned in the form of botanical illustration. My fellow retired teacher friend, Melissa, and I decided to undertake a botanical illustration certificate program at Phipps Conservatory. I never imagined how much I would love it, how much I would learn, and how much I could improve. Now I have earned my certification, presented to others about botanical illustration, and sold my work both at a gallery and in Mt. Lebanon's Artist Market. My favorite medium is colored pencil, and I have discovered an affinity for also doing animal portraits. Like teaching, the more experience I gain, I realize how much more I still have to learn!

Maria Mangano

A native of Syracuse, NY, Maria Mangano moved to Pittsburgh, PA to attend Carnegie Mellon University, where she earned her BFA. She has exhibited in Pittsburgh at locations such as SPACE Gallery, Artists Image Resource, and Fe Gallery, as well as regionally at the Chautauqua Institute in Western New York, Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, and at Arts Monongahela in West Virginia. In 2014 her work was included in Errol Fuller's book *The Passenger Pigeon*, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon. Mangano maintains a studio in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Point Breeze.

Ann T. Rosenthal

Ann T. Rosenthal brings to communities over 30 years' experience as an artist, educator, and writer. Her work examines the intersections of nature and culture through timely issues, including climate change, nuclear waste, biodiversity, and biofilia. Her work has been featured in exhibitions across the U.S. and internationally. Ms. Rosenthal's essays on eco/community art have been published in several journals and anthologies, including "Redefining Beauty in the Context of Sustainability" in *Regenerative Infrastructures*, New York: Prestel, 2013. In 2016, she initiated LUNA (Learning Urban Nature through Art), a community-centric ecoliteracy and art program. The first year was supported by The Sprout Fund. In 2018, she will have a solo exhibition at the School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and she has been invited to a residency at HJ Andrews Experimental Forest through University of Oregon. She received her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999.

Terry Smith

Born in Syracuse N.Y., Terry grew up in the small Hudson Valley town of Schuylerville, N.Y. She and her neighborhood friends spent most of their time playing in the woods, ponds, creeks, and anywhere else their mothers told them not to. When she wasn't outdoors, Terry was up in her room painting or drawing. She knew she wanted to be an artist even before she was in Kindergarten. Being happiest when outdoors or doing artwork, it was inevitable that her intense love for the outdoors and nature would lead her to specialize in wildlife and outdoor art. Terry has studied with many private instructors and has an associate's degree in Fine Arts from the Junior College of Albany.

She now resides in Johnstown PA with her husband Mark and their lovable but quirky cats Winnie, Phooka, Orley, Livia & Jupiter. They currently own and operate Wild Ravens which, in addition to fine art, also produces hand-dyed, hand-screened clothing with Terry's original designs. Terry's plans for the future include a return to large-scale oil painting, life studies of wildlife, some plein air work, and a tee shirt design to help support local shelters.