



About me:

I am an autodidactic artist and have been in the professional world for about 15 years. In addition, I have been teaching art for the past ten years in my studio, at a performing arts center, and in various other settings. I am excited to be back in my studio, sharing my experiences from the art community, trials and errors in my work, and my passion for creating new things with my students.

Things I have done in the community:

- Murals inside McCownGordon Headquarters, Oak Park Mall, Bing Box inside Hawthorne Plaza, Crossroads District, and personal residents.
- Custom baseball helmets
- Custom drums for musicians
- Pet Portraits
- Commission paintings for personal and commercial

My philosophy on art classes:

With young artists, it's essential to create the space for wins and improvements. My studio has a very strict policy around kind words and affirmations. Students are less likely to take a risk if there is fear around judgments. My studio is a safe space for those risks to happen where the students can be themselves. They can be a bit vulnerable around each other without "the worry" taking over.

Part of building the space for young artists to be creative is cultivating a relationship with them. I have learned over the years, sometimes kids just need permission to try something and see what happens. That is where my classes thrive, we try things, we learn and we try again. Along with the freedom to create is also being open to learning new things from me. I push my students into areas they may not prefer, like shading darker or trying a different style of art than they are used to. This is where the spark happens and all of a sudden students learn they are more capable than they thought.

If students leave my studio encouraged, confident, and wanting to learn more, then I have succeeded.