

Arts United Summer Showcase

JULY 7 - AUGUST 26, 2023

In Partnership
with
Arts United, FL



Arts United, FL

Our mission is to use the arts to present a positive message about the LGBTQ community and provide opportunities for artist to contribute fully and openly to the cultural, social, and economic success of South Florida.

We produce programs and events that feature our member artists and promote the development of culturally diverse arts. We collaborate with other organizations in South Florida to maximize the cultural opportunities for our members and offerings for the general public.

The exhibited works were selected from an Open Call for Art from Arts United, FL members.

Artist Information

Click a name below for info, or scroll

KATERINA ALTAMIROV

SUZANNE BARTON

ROBERT CATAPANO

PIA DUGGER

LULA SANDRA GOVER

TRISH KAHN

LUPE LAWRENCE

HEATHER NEIMAN

KATYA NEPTUNE

DAVID PARISH

FELISA PRIETO

JAMIE RODRIGUEZ

KAREN SALUP

JL SCHWARTZ

JILL SNEIDMAN

ADRIENNE WALKER

SHERMAN YEE

KATERINA ALTAMIROV

This piece, "**The Fog**", was inspired by both traditional Chinese ink paintings and non-traditional methods of paint application. It recalls the characteristic hazy outlines of mountainous landscapes painted by a brush dipped in ink. At the same time a closer look reveals that the piece is an acrylic pour where acrylic paint poured in layers breaks up to create unusual dynamic shapes that pull in the viewer's attention.

Bio

Katerina Altamirov is a Russian-born American artist who is based in Miami, Florida. She works in diverse media (painting, sculpture and ceramics). Her abstract works have been exhibited nationally and are held in private collections.

SUZANNE BARTON

"Once In A Blue Moon"- As an Underwater Artist the grace and fluidity of movement, the soothing, quiet serenity beneath the surface, along with the weightless suspension, as my subject floats to the surface, leaves me transformed. Following the energy, I capture what it leads me, as I will never see or create another image in exactly the same way again I capture ephemeral moments that in and of themselves create a lasting emotional resonance. These frozen moments in time only happen, "Once in a Blue Moon".

"Color Wave"- As an artist I am inspired by the vibrations of color . I create art by following this energy. Color affects our psychology and therefore our physiology, creating a healing effect. As you gaze at this

underwater Image, feel the serenity of the calm suspension of the subject in the water, as you "immerse" yourself in the color vibration.

Bio

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, I got the proverbial "sand" in my shoes, moved to South Florida at age 20, and realized my affinity for being near water. My underwater Fine Art Series combines my childhood passion for photography and my affinity for water. As an artist, my expression is found in unique combinations of color and form. As a Healing Touch Practitioner, I am inspired by the energy of color and form and create art by following this energy. The use of color and form affects our psychology and therefore our physiology. Art is Healing. The secret language of these energies can heal your emotions, heal your

body, and give you insights, all while igniting your creativity and transforming your life. I capture ephemeral moments that in and of themselves create a lasting emotional resonance. My work has been described as elegant, ethereal, and “other worldly”. The grace and fluidity of movement, the soothing, quiet serenity beneath the surface, along with the weightless suspension, as my subject floats to the surface, leaves me transformed. Following the energy, I capture where it leads me, as I will never see or create another image in exactly the same way again. It is spontaneous and original. In these moments of “connectedness, I can feel myself “shift”- Lost in the moment - Found in the next!

PIA DUGGER

As the name reveals, “**Ascension**” symbolizes the rising to a higher level. Growing spiritually, realizing what truly matters and being able to function in different environments with multiple skills. I admire those abilities in the Anhinga (aka Snake Bird).

Anhingas are not only able to walk on land and fly, but are also excellent divers. Watching these birds swim under water is quite surreal. It seems as if they have mastered all the elements with ease. I too want to master the world which surrounds me in the way the Anhinga does.

Bio

Pia Kristina Dugger is an American-born artist, raised in a multi-cultural household in Sindelfingen, Germany before immigrating to Hallandale, Florida in 2004.

The birth of her second son in 2015 rekindled her love for art and Pia eventually returned to what had helped and comforted her in the past. Focus on how the lack of work-life balance made her feel, unattainable expectations as a working mother and wife, and the human disconnect from nature and addiction to electronics became her subject matter. Initially, painting in acrylics and later exploring oils. Pia creates paintings in bright colors contrasting with muted skulls and wildlife, which stand in the center of her paintings. Pia's work highlights the ongoing struggle of natural human beings in a technology- and profit-driven world.

LULA SANDRA GOVER

“Can't Hold Us Down” illustrates women from different cultures, different languages, and different colors but who have the same feelings, the same values, and the same dreams as human beings. The painting emphasizes the importance of standing up for oneself and others, regardless of gender, race, or social status, encouraging women to take control of their lives and demand respect. It is a call to action for women to stand up against gender inequality and discrimination.

Bio

Lula Sandra Gover Bio Lula Sandra Gover was born in Argentina. She has been living in the United States of America since 2000. She received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University National of Rosario, Argentina. Lula

Gover specializes in painting, working predominantly in oil, acrylics and mixed media. She has focused on female-centric images. Her work captures the essence of women in an allegorical sense, representing a praise to the figure of women and a reflection on her. Lula has experience in public art, creating murals and street art. She has exhibited her art internationally.

LUPE LAWRENCE

"Dancing for Joy" is a painting of a woman who has just overcome obstacles that define all challenges and hardships; she dances to celebrate her victory.

Bio

Lupe Lawrence was born in Havana, Cuba and moved to Palm Beach County when she was five years old. Lupe lived in her aunt's house in which hanging above her sofa, she saw the painting *Haywain* by John Constable and began to cry, immediately knowing she wanted to be an artist. Lupe wants to evoke the same emotions in others as the painting had produced in her. In 1995 Lupe began taking classes at Convenient School of the Arts headed by Robert Watler. Through his instruction and my perseverance, she began exhibiting professionally in 2002.

She has since shown in England,
South and North Carolina, Georgia,
and throughout Florida.

KATYA NEPTUNE

Neptune's work is deeply personal and reflective, drawing on her own experiences with mental health and spirituality. She aims to destigmatize experiences that are often considered taboo or outside of the mainstream by normalizing the experience of spiritual visions. A Synchronistic Encounter is a visual representation of the inner workings of the mind and spirit. Through the use of line work and abstract mapping, Neptune examines how to exercise an intuitive approach to connect the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of herself.

Bio

Katya Neptune is a Filipina diaspora (b.1976 Angeles City, Philippines) currently based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She works as an interdisciplinary artist with a socially engaged practice as she

pursues her BA at Florida Atlantic University. Neptune has exhibited her work in numerous venues around south Florida. She uses personal and intimate visual narratives to share her struggle and healing to normalize conversations around this topic and to de-stigmatize mental illness. Overall, the heart of her practice is a commitment to authenticity and vulnerability to advocate for others.

In addition to Neptune's art practice, in 2009 she founded ArtHeart. This non-profit organization aims to empower artists of all levels to inspire healthy and imaginative growth in her community.

DAVID PARISH

My recent works, figurative abstracts, are largely influenced by personal experiences, connections, and insights. The figures become part of the composition combined with the play of definition, balance and interaction of color and line.

Bio

While attending The School of Visual Arts in New York City, David studied under and was greatly inspired by world renown artists Nachume Miller and John Andre Gundelfinger. He painted figurative abstracts as well as abstract expressionistic works. He was represented by Ariel Gallery in Soho. Over the years Dave combined a professional commercial art career in corporate America in addition to fine art. He developed expertise in digital art

creation and technology resulting in his own website development business combined with an art studio and gallery. After moving to Cape Cod, David painted representational seascapes and landscapes. Now residing in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida David has gone back to painting figurative abstracts.

FELISA PRIETO

“Instructional Dejavu”, is a series that uses various quantities of the origami game “Fortune Teller” overlapping each other until the material gives in to error; whether be the weight or size of the material, giving the sculptures the opportunity to be their own shape and meaning. Each structure created is a result of “playing with fire”, repeating the same mistake and losing sight of time and reality, questioning the role of mental health vs. blind faith. “Wave” is a studio piece that looks at the consequences of everyday decision-making.

"In Times of SARS" was made entirely with toilet paper rolls from various households over the course of a 3 years, as well as recycled paint and junk mail. This piece is a satire.

Bio

Felisa Prieto was born in Bogota, Colombia in 1983; she moved to South Florida in 2001 with her family where she studied Fine Arts with emphasis on Photography at Broward College. In 2007 she transferred to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she received her BFA with emphasis on Environmental Art, Urban Sustainability and Textiles. She later moved to Houston and Brooklyn, where she worked as an art educator. Felisa currently resides in Fort Lauderdale where she continues her practice.

JAMIE RODRIGUEZ

I would describe my work as being inspired by the historical significance of the landscape and the universality of the human condition in relation to environment. I am driven by my curiosity and inquisitive eagerness to investigate and chronicle narratives that involve the presence of animals for role play while incorporating architectural facades and construction elements. These narratives can draw attention to many different topics, that can be interpreted in any way the viewer connects or might feel detached from the work. I want to evoke emotion and awareness of the individual to confront the issue of how art functions within a particular set of social and cultural patterns, historical perspectives, and belief/faith systems, while

maintaining a sense of humor and humility.

Bio

Rodriguez's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally at university/college galleries and art venues. Rodriguez has attended art residencies, exhibited, and lectured about his work in Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Spain, Portugal and Berlin, Germany. Jamie Rodriguez received his BA with a minor in Art History and MFA from The State University of New York at Albany.

KAREN SALUP

Throughout my career I have sustained an active engagement with drawings, gesture, and mark making on paper and canvases. My meandering lines embody the intimate energies that carry over onto my work. Despite their enigmatic (unknown) qualities, my intuitive process, is strikingly articulate in their rhythm, line, and allusions. My object is to convert memory to process, process to painting, and a journey from nature to abstraction. I categorize myself as an Abstract Expressionist.

Bio

Karen H. Salup is a nationally renowned fine artist whose work has been featured in multiple publications. Born and raised in Queens New York, Karen demonstrated an interest in

drawing and painting at an early age. Karen continue to develop her talents through education at the arts, student league, school of visual arts, and C. W. Post University (now called Long Island University). She has taught and exhibited throughout the United States and has her work in collections nationally. She was president of women in the visual arts Florida from 2015 to 2017 and on the board of other Florida art groups.

JL SCHWARTZ

Bio

JL Schwartz is an internationally awarded and published artist whose love of art began in preschool when her mother signed her up for classes at the Tampa Museum of Art. Although she has had other careers, that love of art never faded and she continued to develop her artwork via formal training and experimentation

JILL SNEIDMAN

"The White Pocket" (Arizona) is a superb photographic destination about five miles due east of South Coyote Buttes (Cottonwood Trailhead). I spent an overnight in the incredible spot and saw this amazing sunrise that looked like something from another planet. It was truly an amazing experience and one that I had to capture on my camera.

"Hraunfossar" is a series of waterfalls formed by rivulets streaming over a distance of about 900 metres out of the Hallmundarhraun, a lava field which flowed from an eruption of one of the volcanoes lying under the glacier Langjökull. It is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in West Iceland. I stood there and saw this amazing site and it took my breath away.

Bio

Jill first discovered her passion for photography while living in San Francisco photographing at the Conservatory of Flowers. Since then she has traveled the world photographing incredible scenes along her journey. Jill works with enthusiasm, tenacity and intuition. she is always looking for new locations, experiences and challenges.

"My camera is my best friend. I use a Canon T5 with 3 different lenses (mid range zoom, longer zoom and a wide angle). I have used all 3 at different times depending on the position of the scene I am shooting and the distance I want to obtain. I have photographed in many different places such as Iceland, Utah, Arizona, New England, Scotland, the Caribbean, California, Colorado and Florida. I have received many prestigious

accolades and merits garnered over the years. I have placed my work in such esteemed places as New York City, Maryland, Florida and Illinois. I have sold many of my fine art photographic pieces to valued collectors over the years. I continue to chase the elusive “perfect shot” with greater passion than ever before. When asked about my favorite image, I reply: “I haven’t taken it yet.””

SHERMAN YEE

"Rest in Place"

In this work, I aim to celebrate the vulnerability and resilience of the male form, transcending conventional boundaries and societal norms. The absence of visible environment underscores the universal nature of the human experience, emphasizing our shared struggles and triumphs, regardless of the external trappings that surround us. By intentionally leaving the interpretation and interaction with viewers, I invite each individual to bring their own perspectives, experiences, and emotions to the artwork.

"The Gravity of it All" is a contemplative exploration of unseen burdens and the weight we carry in our lives. Through this work, I aim to engage viewers in an interactive experience, inviting them to imagine and interact with the narrative that unfolds within the canvas. At the center of the composition stands a solitary man, embodying strength, resilience, and determination. His posture and expression convey the weight of an unseen object, a burden that remains hidden from view. By intentionally obscuring the surroundings and removing all visible elements besides the man, I encourage viewers to engage their imagination and explore the depths of their own emotions.

Bio

As an artist, my goal is to create bold and colorful figurative artwork that represents the beauty and diversity of the queer community. Growing up, I felt the lack of representation in the art world, and I knew that I wanted to change that. My work is a reflection of my own experiences and the experiences of those around me. I believe that representation is key, and I strive to normalize queer relationships through my art. Overall, my artwork is a celebration of diversity, representation, and understanding. Through my use of color, composition, and technique, I hope to create a dialogue around the complexity of human experiences and promote a more inclusive and accepting world for all.