

Kayla Kirk: The Magic Behind Charmed Ceramics

By Jeffrey Darah and Dylan Sarieh

Dylan and I visited Kayla Kirk in Toledo in her ceramics studio for a fun and unique interview. The Summer heat, combined with no AC in the building, made for a memorable experience. Kayla divulged into how she started working with clay, and everything in between.

Jeffrey: How did you become a clay artist?

I had some taste of the pottery wheel from before, and then I went to the University of Toledo for art school. So then, I did only a little bit in Toledo, but it wasn't until I mean, at the University of Toledo, but it wasn't until I graduated, and I was like, "Oh Crap! I need somewhere to make art. Like, what do I do?". I joined the Toledo Potters' Guild and started really diving into the wheel and the process of the wheel there. Jeffrey: Did you enjoy UT's art program?

I did. I really liked it. It was small, so like all the professors knew you and what was going on. But then also being connected to the museum was invaluable as well. So, that was really sweet. And then because of that, I also received a degree in art history. They really helped you figure out what you wanted to do and get you there.

[My degree] was something I wanted to pursue because I wanted to give myself different avenues after college. It wasn't until six months after graduating where I was like, "I guess I am gonna commit to the studio route.". I'd rather have dirty hands than be in a library all day.

Jeffrey: What is your creative process? Any special techniques?

My creative process involves a lot of trial and error and not being afraid to like try out and idea even if it's not the best one, just to see it realized. Just to, you know, see how far I can take it or what it can go



Kayla reads a copy of The Scribe alongside her hand-made Charm Mug.

to. I don't spend too much time overthinking it because I think I make my best work when I'm in a flow state and not thinking about something too hard. Some of the rough drafts don't make it all the way through the entire process, you know.

Some of them have been fired and live around here and just sit around for information for me to remember.

Jeffrey: What kind of clay do you like to work with?

I am working with a dark clay body right now. It's a stonework clay that is heavy in iron, so that is what gives it its red color. It's darker in color. It's made by Roven Ceramics out in Ann Arbor.

The minerals that they used to make the clay is sourced from all other the country. They get the raw materials and then make it in Ann Arbor. It's a nice clay that's hardy enough for hand building, but then also silky and nice enough to work with a wheel feeling.

It's kind of all the same [as painting]. The same minerals make colors happen at different parts of the process. The same could be said for the glass studio downstairs. It's all the same minerals, but just like how much oxygen it's exposed to or how much gas it's exposed to and what that does to to the color.

clay design? I would say after it's been thrown on the wheel I have about three days to figure out if I want to continue or if



Kayla masterfully demonstrates her ceramic skills.Dylan: When must you
proceed with a specificI want to not do it. It's just be-
cause the clay dries and as it

dries, you can't keep working it. At a certain point you are on 'clay schedule', not your own schedule.

Dylan: Do you have a specific art piece that you want to share?

Yeah! This is a mug I have made. I am calling them "Charm Mugs". They are inspired by stars and things that sparkle. I've had a lot of fun making them and they're new to me. I've just started making them last year.

A lot of my art is heavily inspired by nature. A lot of inspiration from there is with the charm mugs, like the stars and the sky and things like that. With this vase here, I was inspired by thorns, like on roses, and spikey bugs, like caterpillars and beetles and stuff; this defense mechanism that mother nature has created to protect precious things and like, what precious things can we hold in a vessel.

Jeffrey: Were you inspired by any ceramic artists?

Definitely heavily inspired by Grayson Perry, a ceramic artist from Great Britian. He is an incredible multimedia artist, but his pottery is gorgeous and heavily influenced by narratives and socioeconomical stories, politics, and things like that. He tells big stories through ceramics on a traditionally shaped vessel.

Jeffrey: Have you ever received an art grant?

I have, yeah. I just received the Accelerator Grant through The Arts Commission. I applied to buy another [pottery] wheel so that I can have six wheels. My hope is, in early fall, to start offering multi-week classes. So, folks would come in here for a couple hours a week, for six weeks, and take a beginner's course on the wheel. Dylan: What kind of classes do you offer?

Right now I offer wheel throwing workshops which is where folks can come in and have an hour and a half

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long experience on the potter's wheel. They'll get as many opportunities as they can within that hour and a half to try making a form.



charmedceramics.com



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Art by Gillian DiPofi



"I am an artist from Geneva on the Lake, Ohio. I have been making art my entire life and was encouraged to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in Visual Arts.

Most of my art is inspired by Northeast Ohio, more specifically, Ashtabula County where I grew up. Making my paintings are way for me to feel closer to home."

Follow Gillian on Instagram: @gldartwork





See the rest of Gillian's artwork on her website: gldartwork.com

Flux and Function By Jessica Held



Jessica Held is a painter and photographer based in Athens, Ohio. As a practicing artist, she actively creates, exhibits, and publishes her work. She has extensive experience as a visiting artist, resident artist, and teaching artist. In addition to her artistic practice, Jessica runs her small business, Flux and Function LLC, where she creates functional art available online and in local shops in Ohio and West Virginia. She also serves as the Community Marketplace Coordinator for the annual Ohio Pawpaw Festival in Albany, Ohio. Recently, she collaborated with Athens, Ohio's poet laureate to publish a Pawpaw anthology. Jessica is passionate about fostering creativity and community engagement through her various roles.



fluxandfunction.com



Jann Dieringer's Textural Paintings



Jann Dieringer lives in Cleveland Ohio. She started drawing with pen and ink 22 years ago and in the last 12 years has been experimenting with encaustic wax, ink, shellac, and photographs. Jann is a member of the International Encaustic Artists Organization and the Encaustic Art Institute.

Jann uses molten beeswax with tree resin, a blow torch, a heat gun, several types of irons, dental tools, oil paint, pan pastels, shellac, ink and more in her designs. She loves the magical textured layers of the wax. The scoring and scraping, the mark making and layering. Close up, some paintings are heavily textured and take on a third dimension. She loves the way the encaustic medium dictates the natural direction of the work and the fact that each piece is unique and cannot be duplicated.

Jann is retired from The Cleveland Clinic where she worked as a Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer. Her work was precise and measured. The creative outlet of painting is a welcome challenge in flexibility for a person who spent her days working in a hospital. Art for Jann is an exercise in letting go.



See more of Jann's art on Instagram using the QR code above! (@Jannyd2358)



Katt Hendrickson at SilentStagePunk Artwork



Kat D Hendrickson is a Columbus Ohio-based artist, originally from Belpre Ohio. She is best known for her vibrant paintings, charcoals, printmaking and collage work within her art brand SilentStagePunk Art. Her artwork is inspired by street art, life experiences, dreams and music. Kat creates truly captivating and memorable art for bands and clients.

Since childhood, she has been creating art and drawing inspiration from her life experiences. She is also a dedicated elementary art teacher. She is always striving to inspire and motivate people. With an ever-evolving style, Kat continues to create captivating art, pushing boundaries and inspiring others with her creativity.





Scan to visit Katt's Instagram (@silentstagepunkart)

You can also find Katt's art shop on Etsy: etsy.com/shop/SilentstagepunkArt

Esté Hupp Oil Paintings



Esté Hupp, a South African-born artist now living in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband and two children, discovered her passion for art in childhood. Her travels across Africa deepened her love for art, and a move to the USA led her to embrace painting, eventually mastering oil painting at the Milan Art Institute.



Esté's painting process is spontaneous and free, using oils with lots of drips and messy marks, a reflection of her vibrant spirit and the freedom she finds in her faith journey. Inspired by moments of daydreaming with God and divine dreams, she paints what she sees, drawing inspiration from the divine artistry of nature.

Follow @estehupp on Instagram!

Huron Street Studios Reopens Its Doors

By Jeffrey Darah

Huron Street Studios, formerly known as Gathered Glassblowing Studio, is excited to announce its reopening under new ownership. Renowned glass blower Ryan Thompson and ceramic artist Kayla Kirk have acquired the studio from previous owners Adam Goldberg and Mike Stevens. To celebrate this new chapter, the community is invited to an open house on September 14th, 2024, from 3:00 to 10:00 PM to experience the new business and enjoy live glass and pottery demonstrations.

Huron Street Studios will continue Gathered's tradition of offering the community hands-on creative experiences. While the popular glass workshops will remain, the addition of Kirk's pottery studio on the second floor introduces exciting new opportunities for the public to participate in hand-building and

wheel-throwing workshops. The gallery will have available artwork created by Kirk and Thompson in their respective media, featuring a variety of drinking vessels, sculptural objects, and wall-mounted art. About the New Owners:

Ryan Thompson discovered his passion for glass as an undergraduate at Bowling Green State University, inspired by the precision and immediacy required in the craft. After refining his skills at the Toledo Museum of Art into fine art. She is passion-Glass Pavilion and working ate about sharing the joy of with renowned artists like Lino Tagliapietra, Thompson further honed his expertise at Greenfield Village (The Henry Ford Museum) in Dearborn, Michigan. Thompson's skilled and methodical approach to creating intricate objects earned him a place on Season Four of the Netflix reality competition show Blown Away. Now, he brings his decade-long dream

of having his own hotshop to life with Huron Street Studios. Kayla Kirk, a BFA

and BA graduate from the University of Toledo, has opened Charmed Ceramics, her own pottery studio within Huron Street Studios. Kirk has spent the last three years at Detroit's historic Pewabic Pottery working as a production potter and educator. Kirk's work is driven by a deep appreciation for nature and emphasizes the transformative magic of clay clay with others and is excited to offer quality handmade goods and public pottery experiences in her hometown.

Gathered Glass Studio has been a significant part of Toledo's Warehouse District since 2012, contributing to the neighborhood's revitalization and the city's rich legacy as the birthplace of the American Studio Glass Movement.

Kirk and Thompson are excited to keep this heritage alive with the new iteration. Join Ryan and Kayla on September 14th to experience the refreshed space, enjoy live glass and pottery demonstrations, and engage with the artists.

For more information, please contact Business Manager Catherine Clements at 419-262-5501 or via email at catherine@gatheredglass.com.



Use the QR code above to visit their website, and also remember to visit their upcoming open house on September 14th!

huronstreetstudios.com

Poetry Corner

I guess I will never know

what has brought me up? Has died before me. The history of the past has now left. I guess I will never know. The great one of the family, has now gone to another dimension of living. She was here longer than the family of love, but, no one will ever remember the true essence of her soul being. I guess I will never know. I'm sorry that I couldn't understand everything. I guess I will never know.

- Scott G. Spence

Everything Is Allowed

Grace befalls The ebb and flow Of breath ...as you radiate hope Within a loving soul Yes...it's true All will go All will blend And break and Bend. But Love ... Real Love Real spirit Lives and trusts And reaches For even that Which we have never Known Everything is allowed Rearrangement Estrangement And the wonderment Of all we've yet to be Of all we do not even know Is within us. Life is moving As we ponder Yesterdays and Tomorrows But here Right now Is life And all that makes It real. We only truly know .. "For Sure" One thing... The way we feel.

Nancy Jean

Write poetry? Send it to us! The Scribe accepts poems and other short story submissions. It's free and a great way to get your name out there. Email us: submit@apollo-press.com

Twelve Questions with Jeanette Bill-Cole

By Dylan Sarieh

How were you first introduced to artwork?

Growing up in Parma, there was a strong art program at the high school. That is where I first learned the foundations of drawing and painting.

What attracted you towards watercolor art?

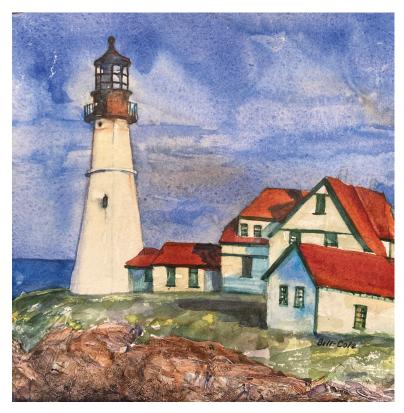
Watercolor is a unique and challenging medium. It demands attention from the artist and conveys immediacy and freshness. This is what fascinates me.

What do you hope your viewers take away from your work?

I always hope viewers see beauty and inspiration. *I* look to the world of nature to be uplifted and renewed. *I* also hope it motivates them to try some painting of their own.

What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as an artist, and how did you overcome them?

Learning to translate what I think and see onto paper is always challenging. Finding time to pursue art without being a full time artist has also been challenging. The way I've dealt with both problems is to set aside a time to work on art. It can be as little as an hour a day. It is important for me to consistently work at my art.



Are you formally educated as an artist? Would you recommend this path to others?

Yes, I explored art and art history at Parma Senior High. After high school I went to the Cleveland Institute of Art and studied illustration as a major. Getting formal training and especially being exposed to other artists will make you learn much more than most artists can learn on their own. However, it can also be confusing to be exposed to so many different art styles and points of view. You need a strong sense of your own value as an artistic voice.

Your portfolio features beautiful landscapes, lighthouses, and carousels. What draws you to these themes?

Landscapes and flowers fit my own lifestyle, which involves a lot of gardening and walks in the area metro parks. Carousel figures have always interested me as symbols of innocence. They are reminders of immigrant artisans who had a huge impact on American culture. And they're plain fun to draw, paint and research! Lighthouses have become a bit of an obsession for me. They symbolize hope, of course, and resilience amid the storms and rocky passages of life. They also are fascinating buildings that presented many challenges to their builders and also challenges to the people who have lived and worked in them.

How do you feel about the rise of AI in art, and how do you personally contend with this?

The type of art I do is traditional and hands on. I haven't been affected by AI so far. I think AI has the potential to be useful as a tool. But human creativity will always be greater than artificial intelligence.



Who are your biggest supporters? How would you like people to support you or other artists?

My family and friends have always been very supportive and encouraging over the years. Some purchase my work, some simply show interest and enthusiasm. It all means a lot to me.

Where do you prefer that others connect with you?

My email would probably be the best way: gsc8907@sbcglobal.net

Who or what are your biggest artistic influences?

Locally I have taken classes in watercolor with Christopher Leeper and Bob Moyer. Chris helped with how I organize my palette with a preference for transparent pigments. Bob Moyer influences my approach with an emphasis on free, impressionistic brushstrokes within a framework of realism. I also have been fascinated with Mary Whyte's work. In her work she creates interest in each surface area of her compositions, which I try to keep in mind as I plan and paint. And I always return to the works of Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent for their mastery of the watercolor medium.

What advice would you like to share to artists who are trying to develop their career?

Be willing to try out many media. Find out what you want to say with your art. Always stay true to what you love most.



Do you have any projects or art pieces you wish to share?

I've been working on a series of gardens/fields. This interest me because they are micro environments. Its challenging to resolve how to portray a field of



jeanettebillcole.art @jeanettebillcole

Notable Ohio Events for September



Fremont: River of Arts Festival

2 Days of Family Fun and Team-Building Activities in Downtown Fremont!



Grove City: Arts in the Alley Festival Parade, Music, and 100+ Arts and Crafts Exhibits!

Toledo Events

Sept. 7th

Fiesta Toledo Latin American Festival w/ Music, Food, + More! 2-11pm Promenade Park

<u>Sept. 20th</u> Authors! With

Eve

Meet a Grammy Award-Winning, Female Artist! 7-8pm **Bowsher High School** Library

<u>Sept. 25th</u> Glass Fusing for Fun and Function

Comprehensive Glassblowing Course. 6-8pm Holland Library Meeting Room

Sept. 14th TMA Block Party Annual Art Party w/ Food, Crafts, Live Shows! 3-7pm

Toledo Museum of Art Outdoor Campus

Sept. 20-22nd Momentum

2024 Community Festival w/ interactive art + Intersection Exhibit! Varied Times Varied Locations

> Sept. 27th Ode to Joy Concert

Beethoven's 9th Symphony, 8pm Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Sept. 20th Harry Potter Chamber of Secrets Themed-Concert! 7:30pm Stranahan Theater

<u>Sept. 21st</u> Cosplay Night

at A.R.T. Cosplay w/ Open Canvas, Drinks, + Live Music! 7pm-12am Art Rooms Toledo

<u>Sept. 28-29th</u> Glass Harvest 2024

View 300+ Glass Pumpkins or More, w/ Demonstrations! 11am-5pm Toledo Museum Sensory Garden



Bowling Green: Black Swamp Arts Festival Largest Free Music Festival, Free Concerts and Fine Art Shows!



Cleveland: Ingenuity Festival Unique Blend of Art and Technology to Create and Celebrate Progress!

Columbus Events

<u>Sept. 6-8th</u> Macedonian Cultural Festival

FestivalExhibit OperEthnic Music and Beer,
Varied TimesGoodale Park
and Drinks!St. Mary's
MacedonianFirst Common
Bank

Cathedral Sept. 13-14th

934 Fest 20+ Bands, Art, and Food!

Varied Times 934 Cleveland Avenue

Sept. 26-29th Cartoon Crossroads

Comic Art Festival w/ Seminars and Comics Across the Globe! Varied Times Varied Locations

Sept. 7th The Art of Goodale Park Exhibit Opening of Goodale Park w/ Jazz and Drinks! 4-7pm First Commonwealth

Sept. 19th Fragments of

Epic Memory Exhibit Opening of Caribbean Diaspora, 10am-10pm Columbus Museum

of Art <u>Sept. 28th</u> **The Grandview**

Hope Night Market and Festival, Art, Beer, 250 Shops! 5-9pm Grandview 1st-5th Avenues

Sept. 7-8th

Scrawl 2024 Mural Festival w/ Mobile Murals, Live Performances, and Food Trucks! 10am-8pm 400 Square

Sept. 21st World's Largest

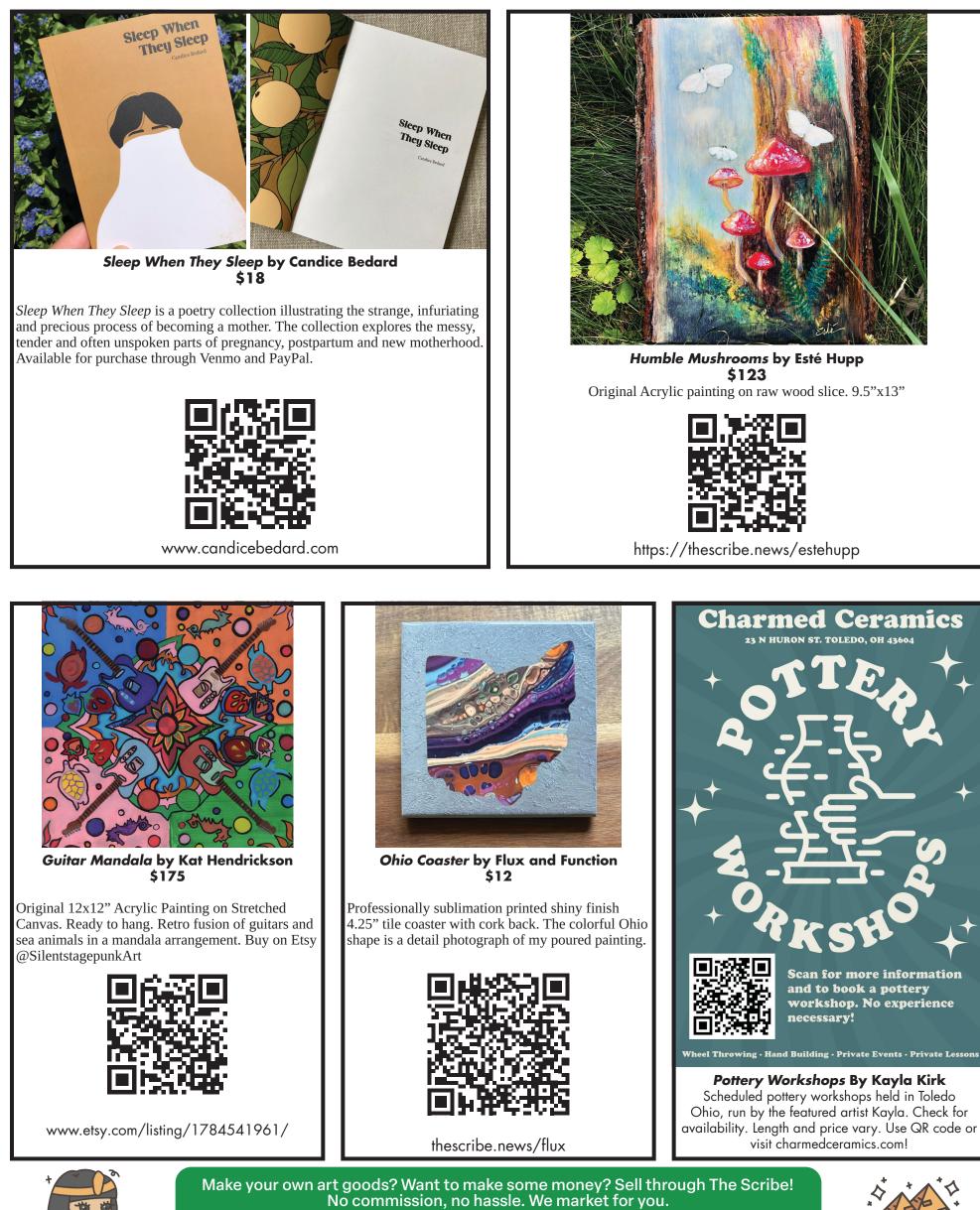
Sound Bath 50+ Musicians in

Harmony! 5-9:30pm Columbus Commons

<u>Sept 28-29th</u>

Seven Deadly Sins Symphony Concert 7-8:30pm, ProMusica Southern Theatre

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Jeffrey Darah

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Colleen's Story



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