VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY



Banned Books Trading Cards Project

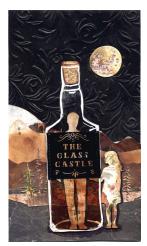
2025

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MEGAN ARTIN

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls, 2005

Megan Artin is a Nyack resident who loves all things paper and fiber-related. Raised by two artists, she is working on her own creative identity to feel more connected to herself and her community. Eventually, she will finish her memoir of her childhood and design the cover herself.

IG: @pleca

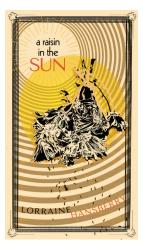


STELLA ARTIN

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson, 1999

My name is Stella Artin and I am a senior at Nyack High School. Art is one of my passions and this project has given me a chance to combine my love for painting with my love for reading.

IG: @stella_lucy1222



SUMMA-REIGN BAYNES

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, 1959

I am an odd-minded visual artist with an associate's degree in Visual Communications and Graphic Design from SUNY Orange. I am currently pursuing a BFA in Painting at Binghamton University!



ASSATA BENOIT

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, 1937

Assata Benoit is a multidisciplinary artist born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Her creative journey began in elementary school and continued to flourish after earning a scholarship to attend Spelman College, where she studied Fine Arts. Today, Assata shares her passion as a teaching artist with the Brooklyn Waterfront Collective. A true creative at heart, she also holds a license in Esthetics and is proudly competing as a finalist in the Miss New York USA pageant.

IG: @Assatuh



★CAROLE BRAUNSTEIN

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, 1953

I am a retired Biology Teacher who taught High School Biology for 40 years. It is now time for my artistic side to emerge. I am currently a member of the Nyack Art Collective and have been painting with acrylics and drawing with colored pencils for 10 years.

IG: @carolebrons



★JOY BUCKHOUT

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, 2008-10 (series)

Joy Buckhout is a lifelong artist, always happy to experiment with any and all mediums. At different times, she has worked as a graphic designer, photographer, and web designer. Most recently, she teaches various elevated crafts and fine arts as the Program Coordinator at a local library.



RAVEN BUCKLER

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo, 2015

Raven Sloane Buckler is a queer book-loving witch. They love to read all things romance, fantasy, and gothic horror. They work as an editorial assistant by day and at night draw, play with their 4 cats, and run their own jewelry and taxidermy business called Nevermore Oddities.



★CO BULLEN

All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson, 2020

Co (Coszana) Bullen lives in Valley Cottage on unceded lands of the Munsee Lenape with her wife and children, plant babies, and a bearded dragon. She looks for art everywhere and often finds marvelous moments in the mundane. She loves our rad local public library and is thrilled to be a part of this project.

moonrivermusicrockland.com, IG: @moonrivermusictogether



★MICHAEL BYRO

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, 1847

Michael Byro has been painting in pointillism for over a decade. He does pointillism, faux-saic art, (paintings that resemble tile) and a combination of the two.

His paintings can be purchased directly and are on view at Byroart on Facebook or Art Pal. Inquiries can be made at philbop@warwick.net.

FB: Byroart, Artpal: byroart



KRIS CAMPBELL Julián Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love, 2018

Currently, Kris Campbell is a conceptual artist, utilizing the metaphor of cross stitch to connect to the soul and connect souls. Her artistic endeavors extend beyond traditional mediums, engaging with the body, walls, rooms, trees, and fields, ultimately seeking to connect with the Earth. **kriscampbellart.com**



★SONYA CANTOR

The Sun and the Star by Rick Riordan & Mark Oshiro, 2023

Sonya Cantor is a 12-year-old girl who is a diehard fan for anything related to anime, manga, and Hatsune Miku. She has a bad habit of blasting J-Pop and Vocaloid music at full volume 24/7, and spending hours on end playing rhythm games (Specifically Project SEKAI: Colorful Stage). Sonya lives in Nanuet, New York, and is in 7th grade. This is her 3rd year of being in the banned book art show. She supports challenged content because if it's a good book, why does anything in it matter? She also supports LGBTQIA+ rights.



RANDI CHALFIN Lush by Natasha Friend, 2006

Randi Chalfin originally from NYC moved to the Hudson Valley 34 years ago. She maintains a studio in Poughkeepsie and is a visual artist, educator and creative art therapist. She has shown her work nationally and internationally.



★ PETER CHENEY

Johnny Got His Gun by Dalton Trumbo, 1939

Peter Cheney is a sculptor, painter, and performance artist in Rockland County. His work ranges from the totally abstract to fully representational.

petercheneyart.com



CAMILLE CLAVERY

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015

Camille has most recently volunteered with Beauty For Freedom, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to empowering survivors of human trafficking and youth through the creative arts. This process has shaped Camille's interest in telling the stories of WOC/POC in general but, in particular, stories of love and relationships.

IG: @camille.clavery



LISA D'AMICO

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, 1969

My life and career have been dedicated to the arts and education. I am the lead curator at The Art Gallery at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve. I co-founded The Bluefield Artists and the annual Rockland Arts Festival. In addition, I am a New Jersey and New York certified art teacher with twenty years of experience and a published writer.

lisadamico.net

IG: @lisadamicoartist



★DESTINY DAVY

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, 1970

My name is Destiny Davy. I am an aspiring artist who hopes to pursue a career in digital media or start my own art business.

on Cara: destinyspace



TRAVIS DEEN

The Witches by Roald Dahl, 1983

I am a Haitian American queer Brooklyn born visual storyteller who blends fashion, and the surreal to create vibrant, otherworldly scenes. inspired by dark fairy tales, glamour, and the tension between beauty and fear, my work invites viewers to look twice—and then deeper. With a background in both design and art, I transform familiar stories into striking visuals that linger in the imagination.

travisdeen.com IG: @travisdeen



VITALIA DERIABINA

The Color of Earth by Tong-Hwa Kim, 2009

Vitalia Deriabina is a Ukrainian-born artist, political consultant, and cultural ambassador committed to preserving and promoting Ukrainian heritage. Born in Kyiv, she dedicated much of her career to fostering democratic development in Ukraine. In 2022, following the Russian invasion, she sought refuge in the United States with her two daughters, where she continues to advocate for Ukrainian culture through her art and public engagements. Through her exhibitions and workshops, she continues to inspire creativity, strengthen cultural ties, and celebrate the enduring spirit of Ukrainian traditions.

IG: @vita_petrykivka



★PEGGY EARLE

My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis, 2009

Peggy Earle has made art all her life, from painting, to assemblage, to her latest obsession — mixed media embroidery. She's shown her pieces in various settings — galleries, museums, shops, and libraries. For several years, her assemblages illustrated an advice column in what was *Modern Maturity* — now *AARP* — magazine, as well as in *The Virginian-Pilot* newspaper, where she was a librarian and the book review editor. Now retired, she resides in rural Connecticut.

IG: @peggyearle8

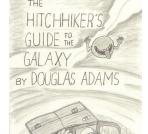


LEAH ELIOPULOS

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein, 1974

Raised in Cincinnati Ohio, Leah Eliopulos is a multimedia artist and creative, based out of Brooklyn, New York. Her works range from abstract all the way to figurative. Although art has been at the helm of her life from a young age, she took almost a decade off from painting until she discovered Art Yard in early 2024. Since then, she has presented her work in various art spaces.

IG: @leaheliopulos, Leaheliopulos@gmail.com



★REBECCA FISHNER

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams, 1979

Rebecca Fishner is a rehabilitation counselor from New Jersey. She began drawing with large preschool pencils in 2023 when she was no longer able to cross-stitch due to her own disability. This is her third year participating in the Banned Book Project.



ELIZABETH GANNON

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi, 2003

Elizabeth Gannon is an artist from Orange County, NY who often works in fiber arts.



ABRIEL GARDNER

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle, 1962

Abriel Gardner is a Dancer and Artist. She enjoys the unconventional side of life and is unafraid to experiment and investigate the unknown. She works in many mediums and lives to create!





TRINE GIAEVER

Sold by Patricia McCormick, 2006

I am a local artist and I exhibit around the county as well as New York City. I also do freelance scientific drawings for journals.

trineGiaever.com IG: @TrineGiaever



★KRISTEN GOBER

Call Me By Your Name by André Aciman, 2007

I got into block printing a bit over a year ago, and it's become an incredibly meditative process for me. I'm self-taught but I've always been into crafting and making things. Outside of art, I work as a lead library tech and am currently in school for my MLIS.

IG: @krisp.creates

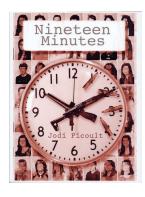


KALILA GREEN

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen, 2006

Brooklyn-born educator, Lila Green is a domestic violence survivor who tirelessly advocates for the voiceless. Art, a recent part of her healing journey, complements a lifelong creative spirit rooted in fashion, social media marketing, and technology.

IG: @lilagreenempowers



★JANET HAMLIN

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult, 2007

Janet Hamlin graduated with honors from Art Center College of Design and then moved to New York to advance her career as an illustrator. She has had the honor of working with a variety of clients in publishing, entertainment, and as a visual journalist. In 2006 The Associated Press sent her to Guantanamo Bay to sketch the military tribunals as a court sketch artist. She continued to cover the courts there until 2020 and produced a book in 2013 with several veteran journalists entitled "Sketching Guantanamo" published by Fantagraphics.

janethamlin.com

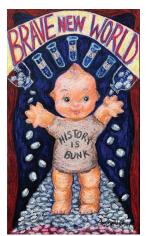


EMILY HANDSCHUH

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien, 1954

Stories have always shaped the way I see the world. I'm drawn to fantasy, sci-fi, and mythology—not just for their magic, but for the emotion and meaning woven into them. Through my work, I try to capture those moments that feel both epic and personal—the ones that stay with you, like a favorite line from a book you can't forget.

eschuhh.wixsite.com/eschuhh



***CANDY HEILAND**

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, 1931

Candy Heiland is an artist living and working in New York City. Inspired by vintage carnivals and amusement park culture, she uses these subjects as a vehicle to express her view of the world today.

candyheiland.com IG: @candyheiland



ROBIN HUTCHINSON

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, 1960

Robin Hutchinson is a passionate artist based in New York with work characterized by its unique blend of color, emotion, and imagination, making each piece a one-of-a-kind treasure. Creating art for over a decade, she has illustrated three children stories, created multiple products for clients, and has sold art at local art fairs.

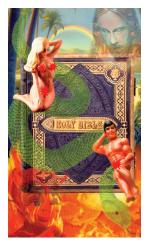
robinhutchinsonart.com IG: @robinhutchinsonart



FREE INSIDE

Divergent by Veronica Roth, 2011

Free Inside is a multidisciplinary artist whose creative practice encompasses both visual art and music. His visual work includes painting, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media collage, often incorporating repurposed materials—such as broken instruments, cups, and sporks—transformed into richly layered pieces, sealed with floor wax and acrylic paint.



***STEPHANIE L. JOHNSON**

The Holy Bible

Stephanie Johnson is a librarian, artist, and graphic designer. Johnson's graphic design work may be seen at her online portfolio sljohnsonimages.com. This is the second year she has participated in this fantastic project.

sljohnsonimages.com



Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, 1963



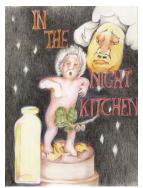
Katie is a third generation artist who has a BA in Studio Art and a Master's in Library Science. She studied at the Studio for Color Etching in Barga, Italy and Laboratorio Scuola Oro e Colore in Florence, Italy. Before becoming a librarian, Katie worked in the art world in various museums, including six years as Museum Collection Manager of the Coney Island Museum. Katie finds inspiration in the colorful chaos of Coney Island and the interesting shapes of everyday life. She is a librarian at the Valley Cottage Library, and lives in Nyack with her two cats.



MELANIE KARKHECK

The House in the Cerulean Sea by T.J. Klune, 2020

Melanie Karkheck is an 11-year-old artist who has a former art teacher for a grandma and an aunt who also loves to paint. She spends her free time reading, going to the library, hanging out with her family and chatting with her friends!



***ANN KINNEY**

In the Night Kitchen by Maurice Sendak, 1970

Ann Kinney is a NY/NJ based artist who attended The School of Visual Arts, NYC and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, where she earned a BFA. She has an eclectic approach to creating and works in many different mediums and materials. Her inspiration comes from her everyday thoughts and experiences.

liferedux.com

IG: @annkinney, FB: @atkinney1



★ELINOR LEVY

The Librarian of Basra by Jeanette Winter, 2005

Elinor Levy considers her current creative endeavors as a significant "third act" in her life. Embracing a diverse range of mediums, she consciously chooses "the things of women" as her artistic vocabulary. Through these traditionally feminine crafts, she articulates profound themes and explores complex ideas.



ELIJAH LICHTENFELD

Cinderella is Dead by Kaylynn Bayron, 2020

I am going into my freshman year at Tappan Zee High School. I aspire to be an animator and create stories to bring light into the world. I enjoy drawing on my ipad or in my sketchbook as well as singing, acting, reading, and writing. The drawing took me over four hours to create. It depicts the two main characters of the book, Constance and Sophia, and the dagger symbolizes the fight for equality.

IG: @LichtenfeldElijah



★YU-SHILIN

Looking for Alaska by John Green, 2005

I grew up in New York State, and for the last 23 years, I have lived in Rockland County. My husband and I have raised three children here. I started primarily using colored pencils in 2018 when I took a class at the Rockland Center for the Arts. I have always been interested in light and form, but now I am exploring color.



BRITTANY ROSE LOWER

The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende, 1982

Brittany Rose is a nature and night sky artist who works in paints and soft pastels. She is based in Poughkeepsie, NY.

IG: @brosemakesart



GRETCHEN MAHNKOPF

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess, 1962

Gretchen Mahnkopf lives in Rosendale, NY and attended Tulane University and the Art Students League of NYC.

gretchenmahnkopf.com



PAULA MCDONAGH

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy, 1878

Paula McDonagh is a Connecticut based photographer and abstract artist.

Much of Paula's photography emphasizes natural elements. Water and floral themes, often depicted as abstractions, are captured from an unusual perspective and are favorite subjects. Light, color, reflection, shape, geometry, and pattern play a significant role in her work.

pmcdonagh.com



★MERIDITH MCNEAL

The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf & Robert Lawson, 1936

Meridith McNeal (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based artist, curator and educator represented by Figureworks Gallery, Kentler International Drawing Space Flat Files, and Embrace Creatives. She has been a frequent Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome. Having received numerous awards, she regularly exhibits throughout the US and abroad. She is the cofounder and director of ART YARD BKLYN.

meridithmcneal.com



★JENNA MEGA

The Giver by Lois Lowry, 1993

As a kitchen designer, it seems like I get to be very creative but kitchens are pretty formulaic if done properly. The Banned Books Project is a way to "force" myself to share my creativity with others. It is also a peaceful way to protest banning books in the first place.



K. NICOLE MURTAGH

Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez, 2015

K. Nicole Murtagh is a multidisciplinary maker whose background is rooted in photography and advertising. As an artist, she is currently exploring camera-less photography through sustainable darkroom techniques — layering natural and upcycled materials with sunlight, time, and plant-based chemistry. Nicole experiments in chemigrams, lumen prints, chlorophyll processes, and collage.

familiarfox.com IG: @familiarfox



★JANELL O'ROURKE

Beloved by Toni Morrison, 1987

Janell O'Rourke is an ecofeminist multimedia visual artist. Her studio practice is deeply shaped through drawing, often using intentionally low-tech materials and techniques. Through art making, she explores paths of empathy, respect and curiosity in contemporary human/more-than-human relationships. She enjoys threading together intuitive minglings of creaturely storytelling. ianellorourke.com

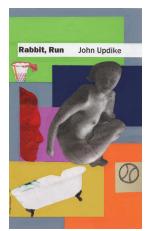


ANDRE PACE

Creepshow by Stephen King, 1982

As a cartoonist, illustrator, and painter, I enjoy moments of humor in art & culture. I enjoy Stephen King's movie adaptations from his novels—my all time favorite is *Carrie* (orginal version, of course). My art work has been published nationally & internationally, and has been sold at regional art events museums, galleries, & universities. I consider myself to be a trailblazer/ultra contemporary artist.

IG: @andrepace057



★ROBERT ANDREW PARSEKIAN

Rabbit, Run by John Updike, 1960

Parsekian received his education at the Art Students League in New York, the University of Florence Italy, and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. Robert's work appears in numerous transportation facilities in the tri-state area in the form of murals, graphic and architectural enhancements created during his time as Architectural Graphics Coordinator at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

IG: @robertandrewparsekian



★STRUMMER CASH PETERSEN

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck, 1939

Since Strummer learned to function his hand, he has been consistently out of control, using it to draw, dabbling in different forms of art, influenced by memories of cartoons and inner visualization of music. When art isn't on the mind, it is the preservation of classic film, or music of the previous century. Strummer is currently available for gallery projects or any need for an artist.

IG: @thisbestrumm



★JANET PIROZZI RIOLO

1984 by George Orwell, 1949

Janet Pirozzi Riolo earned her art degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Early in her career, she designed screen prints and did illustration work in NYC's Garment District. With her background in fashion, Janet always draws upon and incorporates color, pattern, and style in her work. Whether she is working in actual realism or stylized realism, fashion is always a part of her art.

jpriolo-art.com IG: @jpriolo.art



★DIANA PONCE-CWIEKALO

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, 2003

As an Illustrator/Designer for more than three decades, Diana specializes in art and design for advertising, publishing, and licensing; consumer products; and costumes, apparel and accessory design and development.

Diana currently lives in Rockland County with her husband and son.

dpistudiony.com
IG: @dpi_studio_ny



JACOB RATH

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, 1985

Jacob Rath is a Brooklyn based artist that works in a variety of mediums and a variety of topics, with a recent interest in designing book covers for banned books. He has a degree in Studio Art from Macalester College and has exhibited artwork throughout the U.S. and in St. Petersburg, Russia. In addition to being an artist, Jacob is an English teacher at a Montessori Elementary school.

IG: @jacobrathart



★MARIE ROBERTS

Finnegans Wake by James Joyce, 1939

Marie Roberts is a painter who lives and works in New York City.

IG: @mariearoberts



LYNNE MARIE ROSENBERG

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume, 1970

When not in a classroom, on a stage, in front of a camera, or at my drawing board, I can be found volunteering at The 52nd Street Project (52project.org).

lynnemarierosenberg.com IG: @lynnemarierosenberg

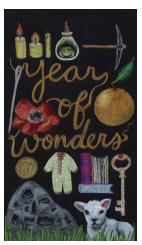


CAROLYN SCHLAM

Crazy Lady by Jane Leslie Conly, 1993

Carolyn Schlam is an award winning artist and author of four books on art including *The Creative Path*, *The Zen of Art*, and *The Joy of Art* series of books. Carolyn lives and has her studio in The Hudson Valley.

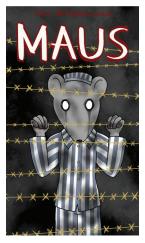
carolynschlam.com



MELANIE SCHLOSSER

Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks, 2001

Melanie Schlosser is a lifelong artist with a degree in drawing and painting. She's inspired by nature and whimsy, and leans into colors and symbols to express herself. She's excited to share her work at the Valley Cottage Library!



RACHEL SHARP

Maus by Art Spiegelman, 1986

Rachel Sharp is a digital artist from New City. A comic enthusiast and recent graduate from Rockland Community College, Rachel's work has been featured in the Rockland Arts Festival and in recent PFLAG coloring books. Her work can be found on Instagram and Redbubble under the name "RayofArtistry"

IG: @rayofartistry



★CAROLINE SIECKE-PAPE

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, 1908

Caroline is the Adult Programs & Exhibits
Manager at the Valley Cottage Library. With an art
background and a journey of a comically vast array
of vocations, she happily landed in her favorite job
at the library seven years ago. She continues to
discover that her art and creativity can be used in
many ways.

IG: @sieckepape



DEBBIE SILBERBERG

The Patron Saint of Liars by Ann Patchett, 1992

Debbie Silberberg is an artist who relies on found objects and needlework to create her art work.

mybackyardartifacts.com

IG: @my backyard artifacts



***CHARLOTTE SLAVIS**

Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola, 1975

My name is Charlotte Slavis, and I am 14 years old. I love crafting, riding horses, running, and am a 4-H member! I am in studio art and have just received the 2025 Patriotism Award, presented by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 333. This is my second year doing this Banned Books project and so excited to do it again!



★JAYDEN SPRATLEY

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas, 2017

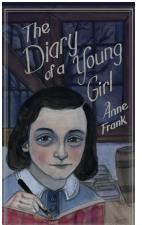
I am a Graphic Designer residing in New Jersey and earned my Bachelor's Degree of Art from Fairleigh Dickinson University. I love creating in different mediums of art that stretch from watercolor, drawing, mixed media and, most importantly, digital art. I take my biggest inspirations from various anime, tv shows, and movies and implement them into my art pieces for everyone to enjoy and connect with.



CATHERINE STRAUB

Crank by Ellen Hopkins, 2004

Catherine Straub is an artist and art educator living in Valley Cottage. She has created art since childhood and continues to work in a variety of mediums, especially watercolor, ceramics, and colored and graphite pencil. One area of specialty for her is custom portraiture of both people and pets. Catherine has also been an art educator at Cresskill Jr./Sr. High School in Cresskill, NJ for 20 years, which has allowed her to share her love of art with students and encourage them to find their own artistic voices.



★ DEBRA STYER

Ann Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, 1946

Debra Styer is a traditional watercolor artist, illustrator and portrait painter from San Francisco who is inspired by her love of history, literature, folktales, and a good ghost story.

debrastyer.com



★ FLORENCE TANNENBAUM

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, 1865

I am a retired NYC Kindergarten teacher. I am currently enjoying working in colored watercolor pencils and pen and ink. I participate in a weekly ART ZOOM where we work and chat and try to encourage one another at the same time!



* ALYSSA TOOHEY

Goosebumps by R.L. Stein, 1992-97 (series)

Alyssa is an artist and English Professor in the Hudson Valley. Her art focuses on Pop Art portraits of famous authors, and she sells her work at markets and in bookstores around the Hudson Valley. She lives in New Paltz with her spouse, their two-year-old daughter and their nine cats. IG: @popart authors



★RACHEL TRUSEWICZ & WREN RICCI

The Odyssey by Homer, published in English in 1614

A native of the New York Hudson Valley, Rachel works at one of RCLS's member libraries, drawing on a lifelong love of reading and libraries. She has dabbled in many mediums and crafts, but always comes back to hand embroidery. Wren is a California artist who, when not drawing or crafting, volunteers with their local "Friends Of" organization to support their library community. Design created by Wren Ricci, embroidered by Rachel Trusewicz.





TAMERA TURNER

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman, 1995

Tamera is a multidisciplinary artist and mindful maker whose work blends storytelling, visual design, and intentional living. Known for her whimsical jewelry, and curated workshops, she invites audiences into experiences that celebrate beauty, self-care, and connection. Whether painting, metalsmithing, or crafting, Tamera infuses each project with heart, harmony, and a touch of magic.



LORI WEISBART-POLSON

Freckleface Strawberry

by Julianne Moore and LeUyen Pham, 2007
Lori is an award-winning artist whose work has been selected by a Guggenheim Museum curator for juried exhibition. Her artwork is in private collections and galleries across the country. Her true love is painting and drawing. In addition to enjoying fine art, Lori has been representing preeminent portrait painters for over twenty years.

loriweisbartart.com
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