

BUSINESS OF ART BIOGRAPHIES 2021



Kathy C. Cieslewicz

Director

Kathy serves as Director and Curator for the DSU Sears Art Museum. She received an Associates degree from Dixie State College and a Bachelor degree from Southern Utah University. The St. George Art Museum commissioned her to produce three installations. She frequently presents at workshops as a creativity coach, presents art demonstrations, adjudicates art shows, mentors, and speaks to community organizations. In addition, her love of teaching has been expressed as an adjunct instructor for 2D design at DSC and since 2006 at Mohave Community College as the instructor for Art History, Drawing, Design, and Watercolor. Kathy helps artists on a daily basis, and as an artist herself, she is acutely aware of their needs. Currently, she is a founder, presenter, and director for annual conferences The Business of Art and Women Out West: Professional Artists of Utah. Both events educate and provide networking for artists.



Paul and Susan Bingham

Founding Honorary Co-Chairs

Paul and Susan began collecting fine American art more than 40 years ago specializing in acquiring works by deceased American artists of merit such as Maynard Dixon, Thomas Hill, Edgar Payne, E.I. Couse, and others. They opened their first gallery in Los Altos, California in 1974, with subsequent galleries in Campbell, and San Jose, California. In the fall of 1998 they purchased Maynard Dixon's summer home and studio in Mt. Carmel, Utah. Committed to restoring this art-historic site, they formed a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, The Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts, which manages this important project. The foundation provides artist-in-residence programs, preserves the home and studio where Dixon's memorial ashes remain, and hosts workshops for individuals with special needs. Plans are currently underway to build a Maynard Dixon Museum near the Mt. Carmel property.



Roland Lee

Keynote Presenter

Artist Roland Lee has led a life filled with art. As a child he enjoyed drawing, and with encouragement from high school and college art teachers he has been able to provide a living for his family doing what he loves every day of his life. He has not only achieved success as a watercolor landscape painter, but he has also been a magazine designer, college art teacher, art workshop instructor and art gallery owner. Over the years he has become an avid art collector as well, with hundreds of paintings, bronze sculptures, pottery, and weavings in his collection. He has sold over 2000 paintings and maintains an open studio and gallery in downtown St. George.



Vern G. Swanson

Keynote Presenter

Vern G. Swanson is from Central Point OR and schooled in painting and drawing at BYU (1964-69) where he also played football. His masters in art history is from the University of Utah and doctorate from University of London: Courtauld Institute of Art in England. He has managed two fine art sale galleries (House of Fine Art Provo and Dewey Moore Fine Art in SLC). He has been an art consultant for Sotheby's, Christie's, and Bonhams auction houses in London and New York for the last forty years. Coupled with this he has been an art consultant to four major international collectors; helping to enlarge the size and quality of their collections. He was also the Director of the Springville Museum of Art from 1980-2012. He has written and co-authored seventeen books; including Artists of Utah (1999), Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema: Biography and Catalogue Raisonne (1996), John William Godward: The Eclipse of Classicism (2019), five books on Soviet Impressionism, and with Dr. Donna Poulton Art of Utah's Canyons and Deserts. He is married to Judy Nielson and has two married daughters Amber S. Mendenhall and Angela S. Jones, and five grandchildren.



Julie Rogers

Presenter

Growing up on a ranch, Julie Rogers learned the value of hard work. These experiences also gave her a love of the rustic simple things in life. Her relationship with creativity began each morning and continued as she walked through the day interpreting light, nature & human emotion.

Developing her artistic talent. Julie found her spirit resonating with the recreation of the human figure.

Julie has the rare gift of capturing the divine nature of her subject as she paints their spirit striving to excel. She sees the ennobling power in the ordinary toil of life and thus her paintings radiate the beauty of the human soul.



D. McGarren Flack

Presenter

After returning home in 2001 from his mission, McGarren met his wife at a Dixie State College dance while visiting St. George and they were married 8 months later. The new couple moved to Utah County to go to school. Flack went to Utah Valley University to earn his associates and to prepare to go to med school. He needed to take an art class to earn his associates so he took a drawing class. He did not like his teacher or some of the content taught in the class but he found that when he would draw time had no existence. Becoming an artist was his new found desire.

McGarren changed his major to art and then searched for the school in Utah that would best train him to draw and paint the figure. All the fine art schools focused on non-representational art so he went to Brigham Young University and was accepted into the Illustration program. He also studied with Ryan Brown. Flack's father died just before he earned his BFA in 2005 at BYU and so his family moved to SLC to help his newly widowed mother. Flack had been selling his art in local galleries and art shows before being accepted into the University of Utah's MFA program in painting in 2006 and also studied with Kamille Corry on the side. In 2008 McGarren earned his MFA and started teaching at the local universities due to the economy tanking.

Currently McGarren teaches full time as an Assistant Professor at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah and sells his artwork nation wide to various collectors.

Website: www.flackstudio.com



Valerie Orlemann

Presenter

Valerie Orlemann is a Utah landscape painter using canvas and oil to communicate her sense of light, color and place. Orlemann studied art at the University of Utah until parenthood and a new job for her husband set her loose in southern Utah's dramatic scenery. She has exhibited work in galleries in Salt Lake City, St. George, Provo, Dallas and Flagstaff, and at art festivals around Utah. Her work has been recognized with awards including Best in Show at the 2016 Cedar Breaks Arts Afire Plein Air, first place in the 2016 Escalante Canyons Art Festival Public Lands paint out, and purchase awards by the St. George Art Museum and Dixie State University. Orlemann has been the featured artist at the Cedar City Arts Festival and the Escalante Canyons Art Festival, and was selected to be an Artist in Residence at Mesa Verde National Park. She also received the Professional Artist Award at the 2012 "Business of Art." Her work is included in Painters of Utah's Canyons and Deserts by Poulton and Swanson (Gibbs Smith Press, 2009). Valerie lives with her husband and daughter in Parowan, Utah.



Deena Riley Millecam

Presenter

Deena Riley Millecam completed her Master of Education and was an educator for many years in the Uintah School District. The opportunity of working with teachers, parents and youth helped provide experiences to support the educational needs of students. She has taught art lessons in Juvenile Detention Centers, Addiction Recovery Programs, schools and community events. Deena exhibits at several galleries and enjoys the association with other artists.



Nancy Andruk Olson

Presenter

Nancy Andruk Olson has been a lifetime painter. She started painting as a child with her mother, who is an art teacher, and never really stopped. Raised in Los Angeles, she spent her childhood regularly attending museums with her family. Most notably the Norton Simon Museum, which has a significant impressionist and post impressionist collection. These images remain firmly implanted in her mind and are where she continues to draw her aesthetic. She attended Art Center College of Design as a high school student and has a BFA in painting from BYU where she spent most of her time working with Bruce Hixson Smith. She also has a post- baccalaureate certificate from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Nancy Andruk Olson creates lush, dreamlike landscapes that are reminiscent of an imagined world. Her work provides an escape through vibrant color and broad, loose brushstrokes. She paints quickly and directly using a lot of impressionist techniques. She likes the improvisation and the interaction of the paint. The interplay of the materials and the intensity of the color are part of the language for her. She makes a lot of her own paint to ensure the intensity of the pigment is as high as possible. She is inspired by other artists who focus on color to capture memories such as Pierre Bonnard, Wolf Kahn, Inka Essenhigh and John McCallister. She just finished the Artist in Residence Program at the Bountiful Davis Art Center.



J. Kirk Richards

Presenter

J. Kirk Richards is a studio artist known for painting and sculpting religiously-themed subjects. Kirk's artwork has been collected widely, and has been licensed by religious groups and publications throughout the world. He is owner of JKR Gallery in Provo, which features monthly exhibits of artwork by living professionals. He also runs the J. Kirk Richards Studio Academy, which aims to give aspiring artists the tools they need to establish their own studio careers. Kirk and his wife Amy Tolk Richards live in the beautiful mountainside town of Woodland Hills, Utah.



Adele Greenleaf

Presenter

Adele Greenleaf is a northern Utah native, and recent transplant to St. George. She is a graduate of Weber State University and BYU, with a MLS (Masters' in Library Science.) After retiring as a librarian, Adele turned to her artsy side making paper, and studying the handmade books at the University of Utah, Marriott Library Book Arts Program. She taught many classes in Ogden sharing her skills and expertise with people of all ages. She is an active member of many art groups throughout the state of Utah.



Keith Lockhart

Presenter

Keith Lockhart manages Arté Gallery and Framing in St George, Utah. He has been involved in arts performance, execution, education, collection, creation, and appreciation for many years. He and his wife are the proud parents of ten children.



Carol Merrill-Flitton

Presenter

Carol Merrill-Flitton is an award-winning artist, educator, author and national speaker. Being an artist is fabulous, but sharing with others and helping them achieve their dreams is one of the greatest blessings of interacting with those who want to develop their talents. The best advice Flitton has ever received is to never worry about making a mistake, if you learn from it, you will only be better in the future. That is so true with art . . . there are no mistakes, only opportunities to learn and grow. So, she says, "Enjoy the journey and keep on learning."

She has spoken at a variety of national conferences, throughout the United States, on topics that include, but are not limited to: "The Art of Leadership," "Discovering the Best Within Yourself," "Recreating the Artist Within," "Following Your Passion With Purpose," "Dream it, Achieve It," "How to Write a Business Plan" and "Art and Leadership."

Carol is the owner and educator for Merrill Fine Arts in Syracuse, Utah. She offers classes and workshops in a variety of styles from impressionism to classical for all level of learners. The past year she has donated works of art to her local hospitals, clinics, fire departments, police departments, and military personnel as a way to say "Thank You" for all they have done to keep her community and country safe. Gratitude is an attitude.

Website: <http://merrillfinearts.com/>



Nayvi Neilson

Presenter

Nayvi Neilson is a graphic and web designer who loves learning new things and being creative. She currently works for ARTI Studios as a graphic designer and is an adjunct at DSU teaching Photography for Designers. She grew up in a small town, Roosevelt Utah, and graduated from Union high school in 2017 as Valedictorian. She then moved down to St. George to attend Dixie State University. While attending DSU, Nayvi found her passion, design. Her senior year at DSU, she became the graphic designer and web master for the Sears Art Museum. Through this opportunity she was able to learn new skills, organize events, help move the 2020 Business of Art online, receive multiple awards, and more! This year she graduated with honors from DSU with a Bachelor's degree in Design. Nayvi's hobbies include drawing, boxing, music, and learning new skills.

GENIUS PANEL MEMBERS



Bobbi Wan-kier

Genius Panel Member

Bobbi Wan-kier is an energetic, creative entrepreneur, history buff, and art advocate. She is the director of the Silver Reef Museum / Ghost Town in Leeds, UT, and the executive director of the Arts to Zion/Southern Utah organization. She is the founder/coordinator of the annual Washington County "Arts to Zion" Art and Studio tour and created Facebook training opportunities for the Business of Art.

Bobbi has also coordinated and managed local artist's work on many community projects. St George Dinosaur Discovery Museum, St George Children's Museum, Dixie State University, Silver Reef Museum and the Greater Zion tourism office have all benefited from her collaborative work with local artists.

Ten years ago, she moved here from Chicago, bringing her talent and knowledge of design, real estate, and community planning/economic development to Washington County. She is certified as Utah Change Leader, through the Utah Arts and Museums.

Facebook: Arts to Zion / Southern Utah

www.ArtstoZion.org

www.SilverReef.org



Stewart Seidman

Genius Panel Member

Self trained New York painter Stewart Seidman always loved to draw as a kid growing up on the streets of Brooklyn, New York. When Stewart wasn't playing baseball or boxing he was drawing. His friends always admired his ability to create drawings and would often ask him to draw pictures of their favorite athletes. Stewart's passion, talent and creativity led to a career in the world of advertising as an art director and creative director. While working he painted when time allowed but his true passion to paint came alive when he retired and his time was his own.

Now living in St. George, Utah he adds a unique point of view to his paintings. Observing and painting a variety of subjects and images that capture his interest. Stewart's paintings are expressive, emotionally charged, imaginative and full of powerful messages that convey a story to the viewer in a decorative and sometimes amusing manner. The technique is striking and expressive with images, patterns and colors. There's an energy, emotion and passion that brings wonder and joy to the viewer. The message is clear, "I want to show you the viewer what has happened, what can happen and what is happening." Stewart's work has been shown in galleries in NYC, Long Island, NY, New Mexico, California, Utah and most recently at the Southern Utah Museum of Art in Cedar City. His work is owned by museums and private collectors around the world. He now paints everyday in his St. George studio.

Website: www.stewartseidman.com



Barry W. Scharf

Genius Panel Member

Scharf is a master painter, sculptor and digital photographer with a history of creating award-winning art with exhibition experience from the late 60's to present. Also He was a semifinalist in the Adobe Design Achievement Awards for both 2011 and 12 in "Innovation in Traditional Media".

Before living in the Northwest, he lived and worked in Los Angeles (1975-1993) there he developed a reputation for leading edge paintings and sculptures. A highly focused artist, he was enmeshed in the L.A. scene and successful in his fine art career. His work won awards and was collected, reviewed by museums, and art critics. He had developed a reputation for abstract city themes and was known as a front-runner for his use of drop-shadow in abstraction. He was a founding director of Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), a C.E.T.A. project that used artists for community renewal. The project was acclaim as a significant influence in the revitalization of L.A.'s inner city. It created low-rent studios that drew artists and architects into unoccupied buildings. Over the years, LACE has become one of the most successful art projects in L. A. history.



Royden Card

Genius Panel Member

Royden was born in Canada, raised in Utah and introduced to the desert at eight years of age. He has loved it ever since. Drawing and then painting desert landscape has been his primary focus for over 50 years. Royden stated, "You do the work, learn, teach, keep painting, maybe win an award of two (or not), but you love the work and go on painting." Lately, he has sought out those views that get overlooked; not the scenic viewpoint. Though he loves slick-rock and towering red cliffs, he loves the multiplicity of greys, siennas, pale ochres, blue-green of Morrison hills, purples and faded umbers of the badlands, even more. Further, he realized "They seem to be what I tend to paint these past years. Love of the desert, refuge, contemplation...an ongoing search for beauty...and the desire to paint something worthy."

On occasion he taught classes for the University of Utah, Utah Valley University and Dixie State University and has given painting and printmaking Workshops in Southern Utah. His works have been acquired by the Smithsonian, several State Museums, as well as, Corporate, University and private collections. Royden's main subject matter, for five decades, has been the Southwest Desert Lands of the United States. He paints mostly in acrylic but also produces woodcut and intaglio prints. He has self published some poetry / prose books, a printmaking instruction manual, and collaborated on fine press book projects with poets and artists.



Carol Bold

Genius Panel Member

Carol Bold is a painter and printmaker based out of St George, UT. Born in Pacifica, CA, she spent her childhood on the Pacific Coast surrounded by the scenic coastal beaches and rolling hills of the San Francisco Peninsula. From here, she developed an early love for the landscape and deep admiration for the natural world, which still greatly influences her art today.

Carol attended the SF School of the Arts High School, and received her BFA in 2007 from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD. She has exhibited her work in numerous shows and galleries throughout Southern Utah, Northern California, Nevada and Maryland. She has received continued recognition and awards for her work throughout the Southwest.

Having traveled to Southern Utah all of her life, Carol always had a great love for the Southwest, and the picturesque landscape of the area. In 2010, after a number of years spent both on the East and West coasts, she decided to escape city life and relocate to St George. When not in her studio, Carol spends her time hiking, exploring, spending time with her children and drawing inspiration from the vast and beautiful landscape that surrounds her.



Miriam Rawson

Genius Panel Member

Miriam went to university, and two years into her Music Theory major, she signed up for a beginning drawing class and knew immediately that she should change majors. The next blissful semesters were filled with all sorts of experiments with conte crayons, pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, and paints.

When she married and had three rambunctious boys and a daughter, she still longed to paint—and occasionally did. But money was tight, and she found a niche in the world of quilting. Thus started a 35-year career in fabric design and book authorship.

The years went by too fast, and soon three of her four offspring were married. The youngest one grew up and moved away for his own adventures. Tears were shed as each left, but she knew that at last, her time had come. She began by purchasing oil paints and Masonite board, which was cut up into rectangles. She bought gesso, covered the boards, and began to paint. And the first results were appalling. So she found a teacher and took classes. The teacher encouraged her students to copy others' art and so Miriam did. She never realized how much you can learn by replicating colors and styles. For a couple of years, this was enough, but eventually, she needed more.

So she went back to university, to re-learn figure drawing. She had always known this is the foundation for real skill as an artist. And she took figure drawing for all three semesters, plus a few portrait painting and contemporary painting classes. After copying other artists' works, these first attempts at drawing live models were awkward—to say the least. But she kept going. And gradually, she was able to feel some real sense of achievement and skill.

The next stage began when she started painting on her own. It is easy to become dependent on teachers, and even try to replicate their style, but she needed to find her own voice. She knew she had things to say, and stories to tell, so she drew on those inner voices and started painting things she knew. This is where real satisfaction began, and she continues to stretch herself by painting and experimentation. She found patrons who believe in her, and she is humbled by their great friendship.

Website: www.miriamrawsonartist.com



Kirsten Holt Beitler

Genius Panel Member

Kirsten Holt Beitler is an artist, teacher, florist, writer, and single mom of four boys, not necessarily in that order, depending on the day. Kirsten is a Southern Utah native who has been drawing and painting since childhood. She received a Bachelor's in Illustration from SUU.

Kirsten has been teaching art to children and adults for 15 years, and until recently, owned and operated The Drawing Room Studio. She now makes hand painted chalk art signs for Harmon's Grocery and moonlights as a symbolic contemporary realist who uses watercolor, oil, and mixed media to create introspective and vulnerable portrait and figurative work of people and animals which explore the wounds, beauties, and humor that make up life here on this earth.

Kirsten has shown work in several galleries and publications including The Sears Gallery, The Springville Museum of Art, The Braithwaite Gallery, St. George Art Museum, Anthony's Fine Art and Antiques, Bountiful Davis Arts Center, The DiFiore Center, Elan Magazine, The Exponent II, and The Mormon Women's Project, and are featured in private collections across the United States and Europe. Her visual work and written ramblings can be found on her website www.kirstenbeitler.com.



Jenna Mae Lineweaver

Genius Panel Member

Jenna Mae Lineweaver has a BFA in oil painting, is a mother of four precocious boys, and together with her husband runs a business. Before having a family she lived in her hometown of Chico California where she worked in the Public Art field with her mentor, Dayton Claudio, creating large fiberglass pieces for cities like Tucson Arizona, Cleveland Ohio and Ogden Utah. Today she lives and works in Saint George Utah. She is actively involved in the Arrowhead Gallery there and is a member of its committee.

Jenna has won several awards for her artwork, including the Oil Painters of America's Most Original Award of Excellence in 2019, Best of Show at the Red Cliffs Gallery and several first place awards from the Annual Sears Dixie Invitational.

Jenna enjoys incorporating mixed media such as fabric, paper, buttons, beads and other found objects into her paintings. It adds a spontaneous dimension to her art and an element of surprise. Her love of poetry and literature is also evident in her art as she often includes relevant verse and writing. She finds that, similar to literature and poetry, painting is a powerful way to express thoughts, feelings and struggles. Other people can recognize these things on canvas and respond to them in their own way. We all experience life and the accompanying range of emotion and struggle.

In regards to her art she says that, "My art is visual poetry. It stimulates emotion and involves the viewer in the process and in the beauty of it. A painting is successful if, after that first impression, each successive visit becomes more meaningful"



Peg Wheeler

Genius Panel Member

Peg Wheeler is a native “Utahn”. Being born in the East Mill Creek area of Salt Lake City, Utah in the early 1950s, was truly a simpler time. Growing up with five brothers and four sisters, a practical “make do with what you have” mother, and a conservative father, have definitely influenced her art. She remembers thinking as a girl, that it fun to take something ugly, and turn it into something beautiful. She feels this attitude has always been an asset to her.

Peg started her education in graphic arts, then explored different areas to find her niche. Notably, she was drawn to sketching the human figure, and painting with oils. It was when she started oil painting, and experimenting with thinner paints and many layers of glazes, she was in love. She cannot begin painting on a white canvas without making the canvas “ugly” by adding texture and some mid-tone color. The painting grows out of the mid-tones, no matter what the color, and this base tone always adds richness and can be seen in some way in the final layer of the painting.

Life has taught Peg to appreciate the moments that make up a person’s life. She loves to paint a moment, especially a moment from a homely old photograph. She likes to change the context of the photograph by adding symbols, patterns added to the clothing, and always adding something of her love of nature. The painting evolves as she works, and is influenced by her experience in graphic design, color, handmade books, printmaking, and quilt making.

Though Peg has had some great teachers, she has come to the conclusion that we are our own best teachers, and the artist, Peter London’s words have proven true to her. “We won’t find our domain by seeking after external signs. What we seek is already within us, but is not, on first assay, discoverable. If the effort is honest and persistent, however, what we seek will eventually be uncovered.” This statement continues to unfold for her and she is excited to see what lies ahead.

BUSINESS OF ART TEAM



Colette Cox

DSU Business Resource Center Outreach Manager Business of Art Committee Member

As an art lover and business expert Colette has served on the Business of Art planning committee for the past 8 years. Colette brings her knowledge of business marketing, small business management, and entrepreneurship to our conference. Colette holds a BS in Marketing from Utah State University and a MBA from the University of North Alabama.

"This year I am most excited about our Friday sessions offered through the DSU Business Resource Center. This training will take artists through the Startup Road Map so they can monetize their art business," said Colette. "This training will be helpful for startups and existing businesses."

Colette is a Utah native. She loves exploring the diverse Utah landscape with her daughters and her puppy Bellatrix. All of her vacations are planned around visiting art galleries and art museums. Her artist medium is sugar art.

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." - Thomas Merton



Beverly Mangum

DSU Sears Art Museum Registrar/Artist/ Art Instructor

Mangum was raised in Utah and loves the people and landscape here. After residing in Northern Utah for over 65 years, she and her husband decided to embark on a new adventure in St. George, Utah. She was an Administrative Assistant and Accountant for a popular ski manufacture for over 30 years, worked in the medical field for over 10 years, Justice Court Clerk for 5 years. During all of her previous career endeavors, she continually aspired to spend more time in her Art endeavors. She has displayed her art in numerous galleries in Northern and Southern Utah and has given instruction in watercolor techniques for over 30 years at various locations in Utah and Arizona as well as her home studio.

Mangum's new adventure in St. George lead her to the Dixie State University Sears Art Museum where she was fortunate to meet Kathy Cieslewicz - Director and Curator of the Sears Museum. "I count my blessings each day for my new career at the Sears Art Museum, for the opportunity to work with Kathy, wonderful DSU colleagues, and so many great artists all over the state of Utah."



Jeanine Nay

College of the Arts Accountant

Jeanine was born in St. George, UT and raised in Santa Clara, UT. She married her sweetheart and has enjoyed her life and family for thirty years. Her family moved to Enterprise, Utah in 2003 to raise their five children in the countryside.

She enjoyed High School where her favorite subject was algebra. That love for numbers served her well when she returned to pursue her Bachelor Degree from Dixie State University in Accounting. However, she didn't stop there and took on the challenge to earn a Master's Degree in Accounting. During that time, she endured the trails and triumphs of juggling life, family, work, and school.

Through her nine years working at Dixie State University, she has become invaluable. The College of the Arts and The Business of Art appreciate her expertise and do not know how they would work without her. When asked what her favorite thing about her job is, she said, "The people!"



Karman Wilson

Assistant Director of Professional Arts at Dixie State University

Karman Wilson is the Assistant Director of Professional Arts at Dixie State University and the Managing Director of the DOCUTAH International Documentary Film Festival. She has been actively involved in civic service for over 20 years, serving on and chairing boards for non-profit organizations both in Salt Lake City and in St. George. Karman has a long history of fundraising, and planning and executing events also in northern and southern Utah. A published author and professional performer and voice over artist, she has concertized in St. George and starred in commercials and local theatrical performances. Karman graduated Summa Cum Laude from DSU with a Bachelor of Human Communication.



Lauren Larson

DSU Sears Art Museum Graphic Designer

Lauren Larson is working at the Sears Art Museum as a graphic designer and webmaster. She is currently a Digital Design student at Dixie State University in her sophomore year. She graduated from Monroe High School in 2020 as valedictorian and moved from Monroe, Washington to Saint George in the fall of 2020 to attend Dixie State University.