



■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS NEWS

## Fayetteville artist aims to promote body positivity with art exhibit

**Akira Kyles** The Fayetteville Observer

Published 6:30 a.m. ET Sep. 12, 2021



[Show image info](#) ▾

After moving to Fayetteville four years ago from her home country of Italy, Maura Trice fell in love with the beauty she saw in the various cultures around her.

With the move to America, she also noticed there was a different attitude toward women here.

"I love my country, don't get me wrong but Italy is very sexist and there's a lot of misogyny," she said. "I grew up with women that, and I was like that myself, you feel compelled to be dressed up and wear makeup just to the grocery store, and you cannot allow yourself to have gray hair and you are always too fat. You feel unappreciated."

It was from her own experience that Trice began to accept herself and she wanted to inspire other women to do the same.

"I kinda finally realized that I am comfortable with myself. I'm almost 40 and it's time to let go of those stereotypes and older concepts and old ideas that I kind of put into my own head through what society thought was acceptable," she said. "I would like for other people to see how they're beautiful because they are different and feel comfortable."

Trice loved the diversity around her so much that it inspired her latest exhibit, set to be unveiled in spring 2022.

Trice comes from an artistic family with an uncle who is a professional painter, a grandfather who was an organ player and music teacher, and a brother who studied art and is an illustrator.



Artist Maura Trice is putting together an exhibit highlighting women embracing their true selves and not conforming to a beauty standard. *Andrew Craft, The Fayetteville Observer*

"In Italy, I was more in music, but I was surrounded by any kind of art so it's very common there to have people who are passionate about art. You have a lot of museums. You have a lot of art everywhere," she said. "I guess it was always kind of embedded in my family and where I grew up to be exposed to a lot of art. I've always had it as a hobby. I mean I grew up drawing, creating an imaginary line of clothing when I was a kid. I've always been drawing."

For her exhibit, Trice plans to combine photography and digital art to create portraits of women of various racial, ethnic, socioeconomic lifestyles, experiences and interests.

"I started thinking of what kind of women I wanted to represent. I started with people that I knew that I think are inspiring, then I started looking for places where I could print the pictures," she said. "What I realized is that the project itself and basis, or the idea of what I want to represent, got a lot of people inspired and interested."

Elyse Sadler, who will model for Trice's art, said she loved that the exhibit will honor women in a male-dominated society where they might feel oppressed instead of liberated.

""

"I thought it was a beautiful idea. I thought it was beautiful that she asked me (to participate) because... I like to be like a beacon, so to say; to inspire and to encourage women to be their authentic selves..."

Sadler, who moved to Fayetteville in July from Belmont, is a podcaster and connected with Trice through "the kindred spirit of artistry" she said.

BiBi Sattaur, who is also modeling for Trice, said she met Trice through Instagram and fell in love with her work.

Sattaur said she and Trice shared similar values on what empowerment is to them.

"She agrees that she felt the same in terms of today's society — the way the world is going today with being so hyper-sexualized; with the little girls wearing crop tops and dressing like they're older," she said.

---

Sattaur is Muslim and said she feels so empowered when she wears her hijab and wanted to share that.

Trice said she plans to start conducting photoshoots for the exhibit within the next couple of weeks.

For the portraits, Trice said she will usually take a picture then use her iPad and Apple pencil to draw on the photo, adding detail or changing the background.

"I like to put a lot of symbols in my painting and portraits that represents something that is connected to the person," she said. "That also will allow people to keep looking at the same photo different times and notice different details."

---

Trice is currently applying for grant funding and assessing how much she will contribute for the exhibit. She plans to have the exhibit at the Belmont Village on Hay Street.

*Staff writer Akira Kyles can be reached at [akyles@gannett.com](mailto:akyles@gannett.com).*