

[View in browser](#)



Welcome to **The Art[ful] Experience**, an artletter resource from Kestrel Fields Studio & Art Residency for artists, creators, art appreciators, and people who like to be creative no matter their profession or ability.

This month:

- Not all art has to be serious!
- Instagram LIVE project (now on YouTube)
- Meet our new intern
- Holiday deals for 2025 - buy someone you love a residency

Art & Humor

Bananas and the Mona Lisa, LOL

by Sydney Hammer
Summer 2024 KFS Intern



Image above: Sotheby's auction on November 4, 2024--Maurizio Cattelan's *Comedian* (a fresh banana duct-taped to a wall) sold for \$6.2 million. (Credit: Sotheby's)

In many pieces of art, there is a deeper meaning. The story an artwork strives to tell (or the one behind the making of a piece) can represent a variety of things, which many bring up emotions in a person or cause them to feel understood. Other times, art is made to make you feel good, something that might even cause a person to lol for real. Comedic art is just as important as the "more serious" artwork, and it's important to find the humor in not taking everything so seriously.

Art professor and art historian Stephanie Newton is passionate about humorous art and discovering the lighter side to beauty.

"Art is a reflection of humanity and humor is one way we deal with being human."

"Of course there will be seriousness in art but it doesn't have to be deep and serious *to be good*. There is meaning in humor as well," she says.

The art historian explains that creating playful, whimsy, or childlike artwork can help you discover your inner youth and remember that side of yourself. When people see a rare piece of art that appears different or silly, people start talking about it. Comedic art has an attention-grabbing and storytelling feature that draws people in.

"There's no better or worst when it comes to the tone of a work, it all expresses an underlying human thing, it's all subjective. It shows us about life," Newton says.

Newton has studied and explored many humorous, ironic, and whimsical art pieces that simply make her happy. From pop art to performance art, she has found a variety of work that lighten people up during difficult, real-life moments. One example is around war.

"Right after World War 1, the art movement known as Dada created a new art," she said. "It was completely absurd and made to be goofy... people saw the inventions humans had come up with as worthless, as they were used to destroy humanity."

In the midst of the horrors of World War 1, there was a need to find humor in the world and make fun of the nightmares people were facing. Dada art was created to challenge social norms while confusing or shocking people.

"They asked, 'why can't we just have art that's absurd and doesn't make any sense?'... I find the irony in that as soon as you say it doesn't have any hidden meaning, it does," she explains.

Comedic art is a form of emotional and stress relief, while also playing different roles in society. This area of art provides people a break from serious or stressful topics, war, violence, inequality, or environmental issues. Humor connects people on a lighter level, offering voice of commentary. This type of art

can also ignite new heights of creativity for some, and can allow personal expression of opinion.



On the first day of Newton's art appreciation courses, she walks her students through Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*. She wants her students to understand that the Mona Lisa is not as great as the world paints her to be, and makes fun of how the painting is actually quite underwhelming.

Possibly inspired by Marcel Duchamp's first commentary of the same vein, Newton has formed a collection of mona Lisa appropriates and different takes on the painting over the years.

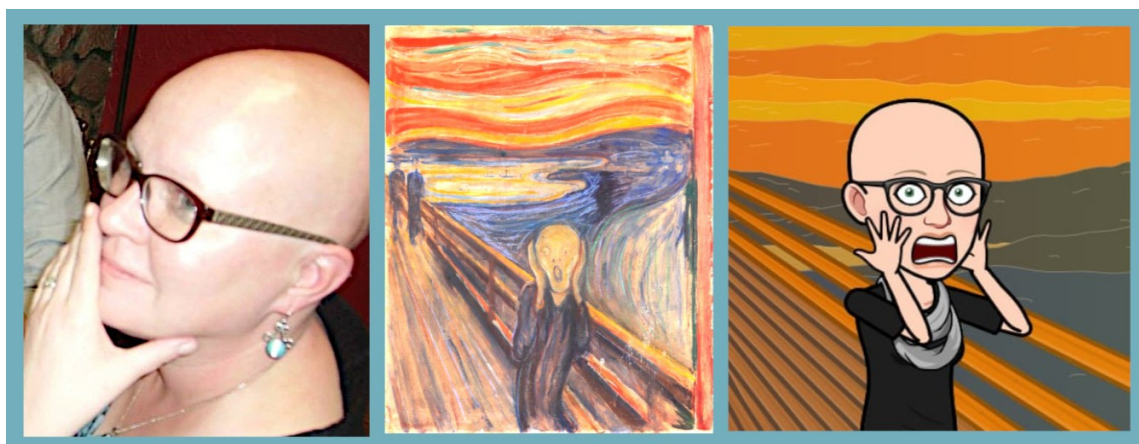
From the Mona Lisa displayed in the form of folding chairs to the Mona Lisa made of peanut butter & jelly, Newton has collected copious amounts of reworked artwork supporting her take on how art can be made into humor.

"I think the big reason I was attracted to art history was the humor. Not just within the artwork themselves, but the rivalries between artists and their snotty quips... it tickled my comedy bone," Newton said.

Comedic art adds an exciting aspects to our creative world, offering laughter and insight into being human. Through wit, satire, irony, and playful reinterpretation, it challenges us to see the world with a new perspective. Embracing humor in art rather than constantly seeking a "deeper meaning" provokes new ideas while bringing us a new sense of joy and understanding of both art and life.

Kestrel Fields Studio recommends a quick image search of "Mona Lisa lol" so you can see for yourself how the famous lady has been appropriated!

To hear about Heather's take on the famous banana art, see episode 6 of her November 2024 livestream project either on [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).



Stephanie Newton is an art historian and Chair of the Department of Visual & Performing Arts at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado.

Heather Cam: Instagram LIVE Project



In November, I had the chance to live (and dogsit) in New York for 3 weeks! (It was lovely.) To stay active with work, I challenged myself to do a social media LIVE project.

I opted to do it on Instagram for a variety of reasons, and every day at 10:00 I got online. I came on with some intentions each day, and generally tried to sound interesting and engage any viewers that might join me.

Lessons learned:

- Ooooooh, its **awkward** at first! But that wears off. It's actually true that you get used to it! :)

- Don't say hello and/or goodbye in every single video--it gets super repetitive and tiring for the viewer
- Don't stress out about latency or mistakes or rambling or uneven lipstick--its fine
- Lighten things up with lighter topics--it doesn't have to be all serious all the time
- Going live on location is not as hard as you think, and infinitely better with a microphone (that isn't rubbing on your neck). I like that it showed a little more "real life" and demonstrated a lack of being able to control everything and it still being fine

Why did I do it?

- I wanted to connect with YOU.
- I wanted to give you a chance to know "The Real, Unscripted Heather." ;)
- I wanted to talk about art (my favorite topic) and the creative life

If you missed it or if you don't have Instagram (@kestrelfieldstudio), you can find all unedited videos on my [YouTube channel](#). Soon I'll do some editing, but I don't want to keep you waiting!

Meet Our Winter 2024 Intern



Brooklyn Ferguson

Hi! My name is Brooklyn and I am the fall 2024 intern at Kestrel Fields Studio & Art Residency. I am a senior journalism and media communication major at Colorado State University.

I love to read, hike, cook, and visit art museums! While I don't create art myself, I have a deep appreciation for artists and their work.

I am really excited to have the opportunity to work with KFS this semester!

SPECIAL HOLIDAY DEALS



GIVE THE GIFT OF TIME & SPACE to someone you love (*which can be yourself*)

Kestrel Fields Studio has extended our Studio Tour specials to the end of the year!

Our incredible deals:

- Half off 1-week residencies or retreats (save \$395)
- 3 Art Coaching sessions for the price of 2 (save \$50)

- 25% off Quarterly critique club membership (4 sessions for \$75)
- Hold an art exhibit at Kestrel Fields Studio and add an artist reception for free (\$150 value)
- 10% off the daily rental rate

Gift Certificates for a friend or for yourself are available. Click [here](#) to get to our deals.

No need to book your dates when you buy your package in 2024--we can figure that out in the New Year.

Visit Kestrel Fields Studio Website Here

You received this Art letter because you've signed up to receive communication from us. We hope this content provides some value to you! If you're really excited about it, please help us grow our audience and pass this along to someone you know. No worries if you need to unsubscribe. 💙



Kestrel Fields Studio & Art Residency
2434 W Vine Dr
Fort Collins, CO 80521
heather@kestrelfieldstudio.com

[Unsubscribe](#)