



Biographies of Sample Artists/Members

Dale Hague: Resident Potter at The Ceramic Museum and Heritage Center

Dale's interest in ceramic art and craft grew from living next door to LePere Pottery in Zanesville, Ohio and later near Roseville, Ohio where family and friends worked for the many potteries there. This interest grew to a passion when he found clay deposited in the glacial moraine around his home while a librarian and administrator at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio). He attended various classes and workshops about clay and glaze. He learned more while working with his family in their pottery business in Crooksville, Ohio. Dale uses local clay in all his pottery and mixes his own glazes. Dale has been a member of the Coop since its inception and currently serves as President of the Board.

Phyllis Shoemaker: Textiles and Stationery

As a young woman I was an avid embroidery artist, doing hangings as well as tablecloths, scarves, etc. I embroidered pictures on squares I used in quilts also. I sewed my families clothing--including suits for my sons. I am now doing mostly paper art--especially "iris fold" cards and pictures. I enjoy teaching youth and see an excitement in them with their accomplishments which is often lacking in our electronic society. I see many types of art as being a step for our communities to teach our young people the joy and self-worth from creating something on their own, whether it be a card, clay pot, oil painting, glass work or a piece of beaded jewelry. It is **UNIQUELY** their creation. Phyllis's cards are individually hand cut and created from recycled materials. All sales go to research and aid to Huntington's Disease patients and their families. This is in memory and honor of Phyllis's husband and son who died from HD.

Jane Kunkler: Stained Glass

I am a retired high school teacher and have turned my free time into learning stained glass techniques. I like to volunteer at the co-op each month and offer exploratory experiences in glass to children and adults. I also help organize other events like tile painting, macrame', acrylic pours and more for groups who just want a creative outing with friends and family. I also work with classroom teachers to bring experiences to them and their students. I seldom do the same thing twice. I live on a small farm and care for two aging horses, a husband and 40 acres of rocky woods in Reading Township, Perry County. Jane currently serves as Vice-President of the Board.

Dave Kunkler: Multimedia

My fellow artist/wife, Jane and I live on a rock. I oil paint, silversmith and write. So far, I have 5 novels printed. I have taught all three skills at the co-op. I started teaching back in the '60's and retired in 2008. In my classes the goal is for everyone involved to be independent silversmiths, writers and painters. I like to spend time in our greenhouse where I raise orchids and oil paint. We raised two daughters and countless dogs on our rock. Living in the wilds of Perry County does have its advantages. Dave was recently honored with 1st Place in the amateur division at Bryn Du's juried art show.

Bobbi McKinnon: Painting

Master's in art education from Ashland University and Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Currently teaching Art at Fairfield Union Local Schools. Art is my outlet for a lifelong desire to learn and teach creative expression. I also enjoy Commission Painting. Visit my website at www.bobbiscanvas.com. Bobbi currently serves as Member At Large for the Board.

Julie Ward: Multimedia

I came late to the arts by way of jewelry making. My interest was in using vintage beads, buttons, and any object I could rescue from old drawers and bags that could be repurposed and see the light of day again! The challenge is to create a piece without purchasing new material. I strive to keep my work affordable so you can enjoy it and then pass it on because face it, we do get tired of wearing the same pieces over the years. Recently I've taking up pottery (hand building), textiles and working with alcohol ink - because art is relaxing and fun! I also have over 28 years of experience working for a nonprofit including budgeting, project development, implementation, and grant writing. I currently serve as Treasurer for the Coop.

Cindy Cooperider: Multimedia

Cindy has been involved with the Coop since its inception. She serves on the Board and teaches pottery classes and alcohol inks. She also serves as a mentor for adults and youth experimenting with pottery. Cindy also works in textiles and stained glass. Cindy is currently Secretary.

Joe Faulkner: Wood Turning

Joe repurposes wood into useful and beautiful art. Most of his pieces have the original "use" designated on the piece. Whether it is a fallen apple tree or salvaged pieces from Underwood's Hardwood Store or the Babb House, Joe turns wood into vases, bowls, plates, bookmarks, and other creative items for sale in our gallery.

Sue McKenzie: Painting

Sue is a retired art teacher who joined the Artists' Cooperative in 2016. Sue uses all kinds of media for her painting including canvas, slate, plates, and other items of interest. Sue also teaches at our Kids Creativity Camp, conducts our tile painting at community events and has adult and youth classes at the Studio.

Ann Cornell: Basket Weaving

Ann was born and raised in the Appalachian area. I love to teach basket making in schools at 4th grade-level and up. I have a wonderful family with 3 daughters and 10 grandchildren from 4 years to 34 years old. I have been basket weaving for 30 years, teaching classes and home parties all over Ohio. I enjoy being a part of the Somerset Artists Co-Op.

Beth Ramsey: Painting

Beth Ramsey has spent a lifetime with nature and art. Her love and passion for nature and animals has brought her to a better understanding of herself and enabled her to create paintings that represent both in her art. Inspired by her two children, who are both artists, she is always finding beauty in everyday things and strives to represent the visual interest of her subject in her own style. Currently working in oils, she also enjoys pastels, and mixed media. Most recently doing "plein air" painting has given her the pleasure of being in nature and experiencing the excitement and visual joy of painting on location. In all her paintings she strives to represent the world as she sees it, hoping to share her take on life and nature with others.

Currently her work is being sold at Buckeye Lake, Ohio, Buckeye Lake Gallery and on line at www.buckeyelakegallery.com and in the past few years she has exhibited and sold her artwork at Somerset Artist Cooperative, Somerset, Ohio, Sunbear Studio, Westerville, Ohio, and Bryn du Mansion, Granville, Ohio, . Beth is a member of the Somerset Artist Cooperative, Ohio Plein Air Society, and the Ohio Pastel Artist League .

Jerrod Nash: Ceramic Artist

I started in ceramics when I was 15 years old when my 9th grade art teacher introduced me to hand building and ceramic slip molds. From there I progressed to wheel throwing and combination techniques. After obtaining my BFA in sculpture from The Ohio State University I taught ceramic art at various locations before establishing my own ceramic studio, StudioMudd. Since then, I have shown in multiple group and solo shows. I prefer to use a combination of thrown and assembled techniques with a focus on simple aesthetics. Recently, I have been incorporating donated slip molds from our own local Roseville pottery. My interest is the contrast of predictable objects created from the slip molds and the relaxed objects produced from the kick wheel. My goal is to get more people interested and excited about our local ceramic history. Perry county's significant ceramic heritage rivals any, worldwide

Space Welch: Hand Crafted Soaps

Space Welch (Space Cadet Soaps) began making soap as a home-school project in 2007, and it soon bloomed into a thriving business, including a line of natural, plant-based body products and herbal remedies. She loves functional art and knowing that her labors provide folks with respite and refreshment in the mundane duties of life, such as bathing. Most of her soaps are made with raw goat's milk, though some are purposefully crafted with herbal teas and beer, as well. Many incorporate plant-based colors and grit for exfoliation. For more information, check spacecadetsoaps.com. Happy bathing!

Ariel Jovan Swartz: Ceramics & Multimedia

Hello! My name is Ariel Jovan Swartz and I'm 25 years old. I live in New Lexington Ohio and graduated from New Lexington High School in 2015. I graduated Hocking College in 2018 with a degree in Art Business Marketing and Design with a specialization in ceramics. It has been an amazing adventure and joining the Somerset Artists' Co Op has given me a chance to grow and try new things as a new upcoming artist. The Co Op is such a beautiful, convenient, and quiet studio where I feel I can let my new creative juices take flight. I joined the Somerset Artists' Co Op in the beginning of December 2020. I joined in hopes of bringing new fellow artists together to collaborate and make new creations. I'm excited to take art classes and expand my skills, as well teach children classes in my experienced art forms, including ceramic hand building techniques, and construction paper art. Overall, I hope to volunteer and make a difference by changing the lives of new fellow artists as well as sell, create and learn new art forms as a new local artist coming to my own in the art world.