## Tonja Smith

## Original paintings, prints, books, and stickers





Tonja Smith was born and continues to live in Morganton, North Carolina with her husband Wayne, Bleecker the shepherd and a rescue cat named Ziggy Stardust. She has two grown children, Emily and Eli. As a visual artist, Tonja focuses on covering canvases with acrylics or oils as she creates narrative impressionistic realism paintings and drawing realistic pencil portraits. You can often spot her black shepherd in her paintings. Tonja and her daughter Emily co authored *The Painted Series, The Adventures of Bailey, Bleecker, and Banjo, Linville Gorge.* The book was also illustrated by Tonja. Their first book was published in the summer of 2021. Tonja's second book *I Believe I Can* was published in October 2022. If she is not painting or traveling to find her next subject, you will find Tonja in the laboratory working as a Medical Technician. Tonja was awarded a 2021-22 Artist Support Grant by the North Carolina Arts Council in literature for her next children's book.