



Art In Bloom 2026
Artists and Floral
Designers

Dirk Walker

Live Painting



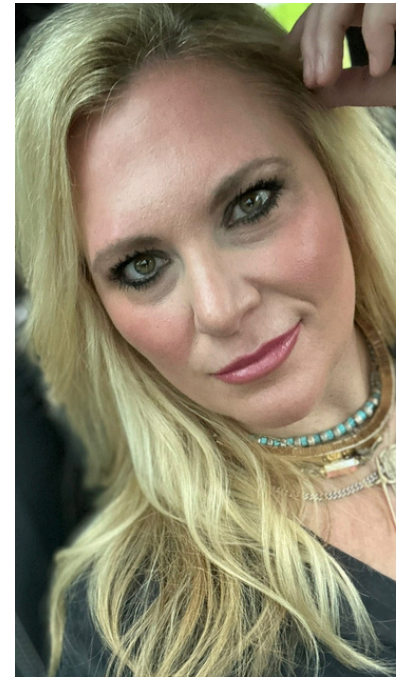
Some 20 years ago, in the midst of a professional career and raising a family in Birmingham, Alabama, Dirk Walker unknowingly discovered his path in life that probably was in place since childhood...that he was meant to be an artist.

As a boy he watched his father paint in watercolors and sketches in pen and ink.

Later, majoring in Industrial Design at Auburn University, the foundation for painting was put in place through academic training on the importance of concept, composition, perspective, color and draftsmanship in presenting a visual message to the viewer. The moment he first walked into Loretta Goodwin Gallery as a potential buyer, he realized his desire to learn the process of painting would be a priority in life.

Dirk Walker has since established himself as a highly collected oil painter in a variety of subjects from landscapes and cityscapes to wildlife and still lifes. His work is collected nationally as well as internationally- both in private and corporate collections. His paintings hang in Birmingham, AL and Atlanta, GA, Corporate Headquarters of Coca-Cola and in collections of the Auburn University President's home, as well as the home of Ronnie Van Zant, lead singer of the rock and roll band Lynyrd Skynyrd. Most recently he was the 2013 Grand Prize of the Energen Corporation Art Competition and the 2014 Employee's Choice Winner of the same annual juried art competition. He was also the only out of state artist chosen to have an original work hang in the new SunTrust Stadium in Atlanta, GA.

Liza Overmyer, Leska Taylor, Asheley York **Live Floral Design**



Liza Overmyer, owner of In Fiore Florals, Leska Taylor, acclaimed artist and floral designer, and Asheley York, designer, stylist, and creative genius share their talents with you in an informal, live floral designinsprided by the art of Montgomery artist, Kay Jacoby.



Holland Bishop

Holland Bishop is an artist and Interior Designer based in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She moved to Tuscaloosa to attend the University of Alabama, where she earned a degree in Interior Design with a minor in Studio Art, and quickly came to call the city home. Her work is shaped by years of experience across the design world, from hospitality and restaurant projects to design-build. This background continues to influence her artistic approach, giving her a deep appreciation for how art lives with a space. Creating has always been a constant in Holland's life. She is drawn to the quiet process of building layers exploring color and finding balance within a piece. She especially enjoys collaborating with designers to create custom artwork that feels personal, intentional, and connected to the spaces it inhabits.

Kristin was raised in Davidson, NC but currently resides in Tuscaloosa, AL with her husband and two young children. In connection with many abstract expressionism painters, my work is very much an emotional process. I come to a blank canvas with a feeling or thought about what I would like to create but spontaneous in its outward projection. I choose to go layer by layer, often times mixing mediums until I'm satisfied. Each painting has layers of under paintings that add a depth to the final composition. I enjoy mixing mediums - primarily oil paints, wax and charcoal to create my paintings.



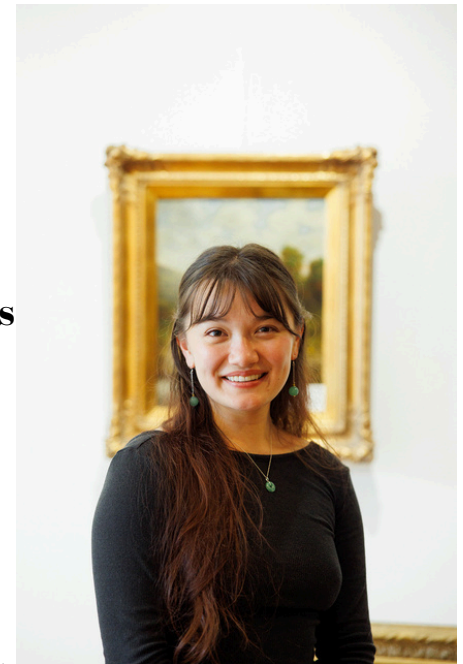
Kristin Blakeney



Bradford Brackin

Bradford Brackin never set out to become a potter. It began with a set of Italian koi plates-beautiful, far beyond budget, and completely unattainable. So she thought, why not make them myself? A few lessons at the wheel confirmed it wasn't the right fit, but handbuilding changed everything. The freedom, texture, and imperfections drew her in-and never let go. Without formal training, Bradford's work is shaped by a lifetime of curiosity, a deep love of nature, and years spent collecting materials with meaning. Lace gathered over decades, impressions from the natural world, and unexpected glaze combinations come together to create pieces that feel alive. Each one carries a story. A retired educator with a Master's in Early Childhood Education, Bradford returned to a creative instinct that had quietly waited for years. Today, her work lives in the space of "functional art"-oven-safe, dishwasher-safe, and meant to be used, loved, and lived with. Based in Selma, Alabama, she found her artistic home through community and connection. Each morning begins the same way: coffee in hand, ready to shape clay and let it speak.

Abi Brewer is a mixed media painter based in Tuscaloosa, AL. Although she didn't focus on visual arts in her early years, Abi was deeply immersed in the arts, training as a classical ballet dancer from the age of 10 and later dancing professionally with the Alabama Ballet. After retiring from ballet and enrolling at the University of Alabama, Abi began painting as a creative outlet. She later added Studio Art to her studies, alongside International Studies and Chinese, finding that her diverse interests enriched her work. This multidisciplinary approach remains central to her creative process. Abi Brewer Fine Art was established in 2022, starting with local sales and market appearances. Today, she is a studio artist at the Kentuck Art Center, participates in solo and group exhibitions, and hosts watercolor workshops in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. In 2024, she led a grant-supported project from the Tuscaloosa Arts Council, offering free workshops to underserved communities, and established a partnership with Capstone Village Retirement Living. Abi is also pursuing a Masters in Business at the University of Alabama to better understand how artists can sustain themselves while staying true to their vision. She aims to continue creating for her collectors and expanding access to the arts in West Alabama and beyond.



Abi Brewer



Bridgman Pottery

Melissa Bridgman is an alumna of Salem College in Winston Salem, NC, where she spent time learning at Reynolda House Museum of Art and the Museum of Southern Decorative Arts, enriching her love of art, fine textiles and ceramics, and the folk traditions of North Carolina. She holds a Master's in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi, where she studied documentary fieldwork, art history, self-taught and folk art. Melissa has been a teaching artist with the Memphis Brooks Museum and the Center for Arts Education, formerly a component of Arts Memphis/Greater Memphis Arts Council. She is a full-time potter, part time gardener and sketchbook keeper, as well as a wife and mother.

As a child I spent many warm Alabama evenings in an open garage that belonged to “Miss Martha”, a talented artist who taught group oil painting classes. It was magic. We had our own pieces and she would walk by and give us a little push or instruction as needed. I came away from that experience with a confidence that I don’t have in many things— I know I love to paint.

I’ve played with other mediums, but have always preferred the richness and slow pace of oil paint. It’s a way of life. Following my grandfather and his mother, I tend to paint still life and landscapes, inspired by nature, experiences and possibility. I am defining my artistic fingerprint as I carve out time to paint in addition to working and mothering. I hope my paintings draw you in and take you somewhere, just as they do for me when I make them. Painting tugs at my heart and asks me to be gentle with myself in this life and I think that’s reflected on the canvas. I’m thankful for the lifelong creative process and for the opportunity to share a piece here!



**Hannah Haas
Burkhalter**



Ginny Busby

Ginny Busby is a local Tuscaloosa artist originally from Mobile. Once she retired as a Media Specialist she returned to her love of painting. Busby's medium is mainly abstract acrylics with a love of mark making and layered textures. Her canvases reflect powerful, dramatic forces but at times, her work with color can quietly bring the beautiful hues of nature to life as well. It thrills her when friends and clients want to add her works to their spaces. Ginny's best masterpieces are her four wonderful children and four precious grandsons.

I was born and raised in Tuscaloosa and spent many years in the healthcare industry, both in Texas and back here in Tuscaloosa.

I enjoy my retirement and only took up painting seven or eight years ago with the encouragement and teaching of a great local artist and friend, Dr. Tommy Rosenstiel.



Jeff Caples



Ruthie Carlson

I cannot remember a day that I did not have crayon or paintbrush in my hand. My daddy owned a printing company, and when I was little he would take me with him on Saturday mornings to draw and dream among infinite shelves of paper. I knew then I would be an artist. My closet was my first studio. I pushed my clothes to one side, brought in a lamp, and meticulously displayed all my paints, markers, and crayons. That was just the beginning, and I have been painting ever since. I am mostly self taught. I am thankful for workshops, classes, and mentors that have poured into me and taught me so much along the way! I learn something new every time I paint. It is my joy to get to paint every day, and to share my passion with other women who come for art classes or just a cup of coffee. I am thankful for the unique opportunity that God has given me to share my gifts with others. It gives incredible meaning and purpose to my creative journey.

Jenny Cash is a contemporary abstract artist based in Alabama. Working primarily with acrylic and oil, her paintings often draw from floral and landscape forms, interpreted through an expressive and intuitive lens.

Using layered color, texture, and gesture, her work moves between structure and freedom, capturing both the energy of nature and the quiet depth of reflection. Each piece evolves organically, allowing the process itself to guide the final composition. Her art invites viewers to experience a sense of curiosity and emotional connection, offering a space to pause and engage in a personal way.



Jenny Cash



Joan Curtis

Vibrant colors and free spirited artistic style... a reflection of Joan's personality and lifestyle. Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Joan went on to obtain her degree in Art Education from the University of Alabama. Also earning her degree as a Registered Nurse, she settled in Vestavia Hills (a suburb of Birmingham) She paints daily now that she is retired from working part time in the Division of Pediatrics Cardiology at UAB Hospital. Her talent is displayed in art shows and festivals around the Southeast United States. Joan's unique and skillful use of the palette knife creates impressionistic paintings that are both multidimensional and stylish. The abstract strokes can be interpreted in a number of ways yet each painting has a clear story. In each painting you can see her love of life!

Haidee DeRouen is a self-taught impressionistic artist whose influences come from her upbringing in southwest Louisiana, her love of nature, and through cultural interactions traveling and living around the world. DeRouen spent her childhood in the prairie town of Eunice, where she still currently resides with her husband and three children, Pierre, Fernand, and Isabelle. She credits her extraordinary parents for introducing her to the arts as a child. Despite a learning disability, she found clarity through the creative outlets of painting, dance, and music. Haidee began painting at the age of seven, and by age ten, she began learning the art of sketching under the tutelage of Acadian artist Waven Boone. Her intense studies of impressionistic art began in 1993 by traveling and living abroad. Travels throughout Paris and London bolstered her deep desire as a self-taught artist to study the history of art and the impressionistic era. Admitted into the Artist Guild in 2011 and being featured in the Big Easel juried show are among Haidee DeRouen's many accomplishments. She continues to share her work at galleries, museums, and through other cultural activities around the south.



Haidee DeRouen



Paige Barnes Dorsey, a Tuscaloosa native, is a self-taught, mixed-media sculptor. Having grown up amongst nature and Southern tradition, her "Garden Party Snakes" explore the similarities of the two...beauty and danger...one never without the other. Marrying traditional elements, like fine china, with a creature feared for millenia, she creates whimsical modern heirlooms to be enjoyed for generations.

Paige Barnes Dorsey

Angela Turner Fernandez is a native of Union Springs, Alabama. She studied Art History at the University of Alabama in the hopes of working at an art museum one day. She started attending artist workshops in and fell in love with the creative process. Angela started out working primarily in watercolor, moving on to oils and eventually falling in love with acrylics and mixed media. Previously being obsessed with still lifes, she now prefers the looser joy of abstracts. Texture, metallic paints and metallic leaf have been her main focus the last few years. Florals are a new obsession this spring. Her work is in several commercial buildings and private homes through the southeast. She loves working with interior designers to create pieces that bring a room together.



Angela Fernandez



Ann Foster

After teaching art in the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools for 26 years, Ann retired and opened Brushstrokes, a private art teaching studio in 2007. As an art instructor, she has worked in and taught all mediums with her primary focus now being oil painting and enjoys utilizing a variety of styles and techniques with various subject matter. Ann teaches oil painting classes to teenagers and adults along with exploratory art classes to children. Ann has studied oil painting under Roger Dale Brown, Perry Austin, Guido Erick, JoAnn Williams Walker, Gina Brown and others.

Rachel Fowler is a printmaker and photographer. Her works include intaglio, lithograph, silk screen, photo etching, as well as India ink, watercolor, and multimedia. Her inspiration comes from her childhood memories, her garden, her family, and her everyday surroundings. She studied printmaking and photography at the University of Montevallo and has translated prints to her stationery, RBF Designs. Her photographic essay, *My Mother, My Father: Their Hands, Their Home*, was displayed at Harrison Galleries in Tuscaloosa. Fowler is currently serving her third term as a Council member of the Alabama State Council on the Arts. She has served on the members' board of the Birmingham Museum of Art for two terms and with the Outreach Program. She was an Education Scholar for the Alabama Humanities Council and Smithsonian Institution twice with the Museum on Main Street Program where her photo essay on fences traveled to several towns in Alabama. She was invited as a guest speaker at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia in association with the exhibit, *Dream Makers: American Children's Book Illustrators*. After teaching for twenty five years, in the College of Education at the University of Montevallo, Dr. Fowler retired as Professor Emeritus. She holds a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She lived in Columbiana with her husband, Conrad Fowler Jr., now deceased, for over forty years. Rachel Fowler resides in Birmingham, Al and has two adult daughters, Catherine Carnes in Fairhope and Elizabeth Smith in Atlanta, and four amazing grandchildren.



Rachel Fowler



Nedra Franks

Growing up in Tuscaloosa, Nedra developed a passion for creativity. Her mother was a constant source of encouragement and inspiration; always gifting her artwork to lucky friends and family. Instead of pursuing a degree in art, Nedra chose to complete her studies in Interior Design at the University of Alabama. Following graduation, she worked for many years in her family business specializing in furniture retail and decorating. “I have always been an artist at heart; the excitement and satisfaction I receive of being a free spirit eager to create anything that comes to mind.” There is constant visions and new techniques Nedra is willing to tackle. Bold textures and rich colors are her signature in a variety of subjects/mixed media. Also, creating recycled art with a mix of the old with new. Her valued commissions from customers include abstracts, pet portraits and Santa Claus, himself. Over the years, Nedra has studied with local artists and attended workshops with national artists and too was awarded 1st place in Still Life in the Juried Art Show/Camilla Show, 2nd, 3rd an honorable mention in the Black Warrior and West Alabama Art Shows. Her forte includes creating masterpieces with oils, acrylics and palette knife techniques. “Studio at Sunrise” is where her creations come to life. Her mission is to continue creating boldness; that is where the magic happens. Painting truly brings happiness to her heart. Nedra is fulfilled by sharing this passion with others one brush stroke at a time.

Jacob Frazier is a New York City illustrator living in Brooklyn, having attended both Savannah College of Art and Design, and the Fashion Institute of Technology. They’ve spent the last seven years in Brooklyn and work in editorial illustration for publication, live portraiture at private events, and leading the afterschool, art program for a Brooklyn-based middle school. The past year has included a mural for the 59th street Bloomingdale’s location, and numerous other commissioned opportunities. Their personal works range in theme and concept: pop culture moments, autobiographical comics, exploration of queer life, and whatever stories spotted on the subway. You can find more of Jacob’s watercolors and life updates on instagram: @watercolwhore.



Jacob Frazier



Kathryn Gage

Kathryn Gage paints nearly every. single. day. It has long been her goal to practice her art on a full-time basis and that goal was realized in 2020. She hasn't looked back. Working out of her home studio in Tuscaloosa, AL, she is always exploring new ideas and themes, never content to rest in the same space for long. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Auburn University her work references her graphic design background with an emphasis on bold color, shadows, lines, and composition. In recent years, her acrylic paintings have focused primarily on still life as well as vintage-look botanicals, but Kathryn also loves painting figures as evidenced in her "Madmen" and "Beach Babe" series'. Additionally, Kathryn is a watercolor artist, painting pet, home, wedding, and children's portraits.

Ashley has spent her life " making people's lives Beautiful " as an interior decorator. Several years ago she started taking oil painting classes and has absolutely loved every minute of it!



Ashley Garrison



Misty Garrison

“Life is a blank canvas waiting to be painted.” I started my journey into the beauty industry in 1999. After almost nineteen years of working in the industry, I ventured into opening Blogo Salon. Two years ago we decided to expand, adding a skin wellness side to the business, which organically has grown into Blogo Salon + Med Spa. In 2022, Alabama Governor Ivey appointed me to serve as the representative from Congressional District 4 to the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering. With that being said, art is my way of decompressing. I have come to appreciate art as a form of therapy over the years.

Melissa is a classically trained artist, practicing primarily in acrylic and oils. “My last twenty-five years of painting have given me a different perspective of our world. As a colorist I am always curious of the shapes and colors I see on any given day. Travel inspires many of my paintings as well.”



Melissa Goldsmith



Lillie Gould

“Lillie Gould is a young artist known for her vibrant watercolors and acrylic paintings. With a love for nature, she finds inspiration in the delicate beauty of butterflies and flowers. Lillie’s artistic journey has led her to transform her paintings into charming patterns, which she now uses to create fun and whimsical notecards. Through her art, Lillie invites others to celebrate the simple joys of the world around us.

Instagram: @LillieGouldDesigns

Susan is passionate about Art and using her gifts to glorify the Lord. Growing up with an artistic family, Susan has been creative most of her life. Her Art degree from University of Alabama led to working in an Art gallery, founding a hand-made jewelry business, “It’s Different”, selling across the Southeast, teaching preschool art in Atlanta, teaching beginner acrylic and oil classes with All Fired Up, Olli, UCP, Elementary schools, and Church functions. Susan gives all the credit to God because she knows in her own strength, teaching Art would never have happened.

“I have met so many interesting and sweet people! What a blessing to have taught the ages 3-90! Susan currently is enjoying painting in different mediums and selling her art on Etsy, IG, FB ... Susan HamnerArt



Susan Hamner



Liz Hubbard

Liz is a contemporary acrylic painter and self taught artist. Liz has been painting for nearly 20 years and lives and works in Birmingham, Alabama with her Bichpoo Luca. Past career avenues of exploration in the music industry, as well as french antiques, and Liz's love of travel have all been essential forces and building blocks to her living a life full of creativity. Leaning in and learning to let go of perfectionism, living in the chaos and messiness has been essential in freeing from the confines and becoming an artist. Liz's deeply intuitive connection to her pieces will often have your eyes returning to the artwork for more. Through years of exploration in color texture and perception in creating, an eclectic and distinctive painting style has become visible from each piece of artwork. In absolute awe of the often unspoken beauty art is capable of creating most importantly connecting and communicating through us all.

Anna Humphreys is a local artist living in Northport, AL, and is the Visual Arts teacher at Brookwood High School. She enjoys painting and drawing things in nature as well as portraits of people and pets.



Anna Humphreys



Kay Jacoby

Kay was born in the small southeastern town of Ozark, Alabama and while she describes herself as "a curious soul," she's lived in Alabama her entire life. She and her husband, Ray, have lived in Montgomery since 2007. She graduated with advertising and art degrees from the University of Alabama and has held various art-related jobs in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Montgomery. She has dabbled in tourism-with a particular love for the Black Belt. She laughingly says she's always "searching for Kayberry" - her own imaginary little town with a play on Andy Griffith's Mayberry and her own name. She finally realized Kayberry is her everyday joy-of-living existence. She paints in an "intuitive style," never really knowing what's going to emerge when she sets out to create. After retiring from the State Arts Council in 2021, she declared, "I just want to paint!" And so she is. And loving it. (You can find her via social media on Instagram and Facebook.)

I am Julie Jamison, a Tuscaloosa native and have been painting for 40 years.

I specialize in landscape , abstracts and figurative work.

I show my paintings at Capitol Park Interiors as well as doing commission work.

I am inspired by the world around me. You may find me taking photos of landscapes and various shapes which may find their way into my paintings!



Julie Jamison



Jones Hat Bar

The Jones Hat Bar & Millinery Design is the creative vision of owner and designer Asheley York, a Tuscaloosa, Alabama-based designer with a passion for timeless style and self-expression. Named in honor of her grandmother, “Billie Jones,” whose love for hats and all things beautiful inspired generations, the brand celebrates the art of dressing with intention—because a woman who wears a hat knows exactly who she is. Asheley blends classic style with modern flair, creating custom pieces that elevate any look. Through pop-ups or private events, collaborations with small businesses, and one-on-one appointments, The Jones Hat Bar offers a personalized experience designed to help every client feel confident, stylish, and uniquely themselves. Whether it’s a special occasion, a beach trip, or a night out, there’s something undeniably cool about a hat! Asheley always encourages confidence to be worn with every hat made, and hopes Joy is brought to every wearer of a Jones.

Wil Ledbetter is an artist from Tuscaloosa, AL (currently based in San Diego, CA) who works with mixed media, abstract painting, and paper collage.



Wil Ledbetter



Carolyn Lewis

In my studio, a sign boldly declares, “I make art to show my soul I’m listening.” This statement encapsulates my profound connection with art—it serves as a channel for me to engage with my innermost self and communicate with the world in a way that words often fall short. As a visual storyteller, I employ a diverse array of materials, including vintage fabrics and papers, my own dried paint pallets, and acrylic paint to craft narratives that resonate deeply with audiences. With each new creation, my primary objective is to take viewers on a transformative journey, eliciting a range of emotions and offering fresh perspectives. Each composition is meticulously crafted with a clear intention and brings an immersive experience that encourages introspection and emotional resonance. Through my business, Carolyn Lewis Designs, I have the privilege of translating my passion for art into a full-time pursuit. It is both a vocation and a calling—a testament to the therapeutic power of creativity that has been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember. Through my work, I aim not only to showcase the beauty and complexity of the human experience but also to inspire others to embark on their own creative journeys of self-discovery and expression.

Krista Loeb is a wife, mother of two, and former gifted education teacher with a lifelong passion for the visual arts. She began studying oil painting at the age of seven under the late artist Margarette Scruggs Guinther in her hometown of Jasper, Alabama. Krista holds a Master’s Degree in Gifted Education from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi State University. During her time at MSU, she further cultivated her love for art by taking a variety of studio classes as electives. Working across a range of mediums including oils, watercolor, acrylics, and paper clay, Krista creates pieces that reflect her appreciation for peaceful color palettes, nature, and her faith. Her work is designed to bring a sense of serenity and deeper spiritual meaning into thoughtfully curated spaces.



Krista Loeb



Brittany Massey

Kerri Morthland began her journey in pottery in 2023, quickly finding joy in shaping pieces meant to be used, shared, and loved. Now a member of Red Dog Potters since 2024, she focuses on creating unique bowls and serving pieces that bring people together around the table. This event holds special meaning for Kerri. Hank was a classmate of her daughter, making it especially personal and important for her to contribute to this cause. She is deeply honored to support the Hank Poore Foundation and its mission to make outdoor experiences accessible to everyone—something that resonates strongly with her own love of nature. When she’s not working with clay, Kerri can be found outdoors, hiking, fishing, and enjoying the simple beauty of the natural world. That same appreciation for connection—whether to people, place, or purpose—lives at the heart of her work.



Kerri Morthland



Camilla Moss

After a career as a CPA was brought to an abrupt stop with the birth of my youngest, in 2019, I picked up a paint brush and began painting as an outlet and a way to fill my time while caring for our children, including one with special needs. I found that creativity was hidden inside my heart, and I treasured the time I was able to spend with a paint brush in my hand. So, after a major career change and a giant leap of faith, here we are today!

I find inspiration in God's works all around us. I love creating from scratch and working with clients to develop custom artwork that speaks to them and compliments their design and style goals. My art career began with watercolor although I enjoy exploring acrylics. My works include custom paintings of watercolor monograms, crests, and patterns to architecture, botanicals, and all things coastal. Regardless of the medium, my end goal is always the same: to create classic, custom art that will forever be a part of a family's home and heart.

My husband, Walker and I live in Birmingham, Alabama with our three children! As always, you can follow along on Instagram (@camillamossdesigns) to stay up to date with all the happenings inside life and the studio!

As long as I can remember, I have enjoyed making *stuff*. As a teenager, I began studying art. In 2007, I graduated from Ole Miss with a Fine Arts degree (BFA) with an emphasis in painting. That year I moved back to my hometown, Mobile, AL, where I began working as a full time artist. My work has been displayed in various galleries throughout the country.

My husband, Robert, and I have three children, Lelia, Sonny and Josephine ("Fifi") who continue to teach and inspire me everyday. I've been a dedicated artist for most of my life. While this is my job, art is also my retreat, my way of finding clarity. The quietness of creative work lets me discover a sense of higher wisdom and perspective. In a busy world full of agendas and pressures, creativity brings me peace and Presence and teaches me to lead an intentional life of good purpose. My process has as much to do with a prayerful mindset as it does the materials with which I work.



Sarah Otts



Margie Phelps

Her bold colorful palette and a rare gift for telling stories on canvas define the paintings of Margie Phelps. From her treetop Alabama aerie, Studio 824 in Tuscaloosa, Margie celebrates life in a body of work that has earned a wide following among collectors throughout the South.

Whether using acrylics or oil, Margie says simply, "My heart goes to color." Red punctuates a raucous Mardi Gras scene, then reappears in oversized botanicals that bring a summer garden indoors. A Black labrador retriever lounges on an ancient burgundy sofa. Confident nudes and mysterious figures in iridescent scarves and dusty hats invite you to wonder about their secrets. Her world is familiar, yet exotic. A native of the Pacific Northwest, Margie Phelps exudes a lifelong passion for natural beauty. Today the South is her inspiration, evident in the rich textures from her palette knife and the lush images that set her work apart. Studying with Harriet Stogrin, Jo Bailey and Barbara Gallagher helped define Margie's perspective. She has carried on that tradition of art instruction, teaching classes and conducting workshops for more than a decade.

Susie Poindexter moved to Tuscaloosa in 2013 and quickly found a home within the local cycling community, where she became an active mountain and road biker.

It was through this shared love of cycling that she first met Hank Poore. After retiring and choosing to remain in Tuscaloosa, Susie took a wheel throwing class and fell in love with pottery. She became a Kentuck Art Center Red Dog Potter in 2024. Her work, one-of-a-kind pieces that merge structural wheel-thrown forms with delicate, hand-built florals, is a tribute to the community that has given her so much. Susie is honored to donate this piece to the Hank Poore Foundation to support a friend and a cause close to her heart.



Susie Poindexter



Susu Prout

From a very young age, Susu fell in love with ballet. She pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, majoring in classical ballet from 1973 to 1977.

After graduation, Susu opened the Academy of Ballet & Jazz. For over 42 years, she taught and mentored thousands of dancers of all ages. One of her favorite parts of yearly performances was selecting and designing costumes for the story ballets she choreographed and directed as well as for the jazz, lyrical, and tap dances included in the Spring Recital. Drawing the dancers wearing her costume vision was part of the process that she truly enjoyed.

Susu retired in 2020 and wanted to continue creating art in a different way. Susu had no formal art training until she joined Ann Foster at Brushstrokes in Northport, Alabama.

After hanging up her ballet slippers, Susu's new found passion for oil painting has given her a perfect outlet and opportunity to express herself through another form of art!

My name is Anne Smith Reeves, and I am a full-time artist based in New Orleans, Louisiana. Although I currently reside here, my roots lie in Selma, Alabama, where I was raised amidst a family and community that always encouraged creativity. Pursuing a degree in studio art at the University of Alabama laid the foundation for my artistic journey, which has blossomed over the past eight years into a career that I deeply cherish. Working on commissions has been a significant part of my artistic practice. When clients approach me with their ideas, I make it a priority to understand their vision fully. I believe that each commission is a collaboration between the client and myself, ensuring that the final piece reflects both our creative energies. While commission work is a major part of my art business, I've continued to focus on my own personal pieces. I enjoy using elements like color, texture, found objects, and various mediums to create interesting shapes and spaces through mixed media.



Anne Smith Reeves



Zoey Simpson

Zoey is a mixed media Artist and Fashion Designer from Tuscaloosa, AL and currently based in Nashville, TN. She received a dual degree in Studio Art and Apparel Design at The University of Alabama, and earned her Master's degree in Fashion Design at the Kingston School of Art in London. She has lived and studied in NYC, Paris, and London throughout the years developing her creative process. Recent works have been influenced by her roots and things that make her feel more connected to home. Zoey has a true passion for Abstract Expressionism and an interest in the human psyche, throwing her feelings, emotions, and personal experiences onto canvas. The mixed media piece for ART IN BLOOM is called "In Memory" in honor of her late Opa, James Breugem. This abstract tulip garden is heavily layered with memories of Dutch tulips from her trips to The Netherlands. Different shades of pinks, greens, yellow, white and hints of red are scribbled throughout. "In Memory" 12x12 Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas.

I was born, raised, and educated right here in Tuscaloosa and now live in Homewood with my wife, Logan, and two children, Ruby and George. Fishing and visual art have always been important parts of my life. As life gets busier and more complicated, I desire more simplicity. And as far as art goes, it doesn't get simpler than this. The image you see is a Striped Bass which was caught about 100 yards from where you stand, in the Black Warrior River, using a bobber, a rusty hook, and a nightcrawler (or "worm," to the layperson). The fish was then painted with natural ink and then carefully printed onto a sheet of rice paper. This method, called "gyotaku," was invented by Japanese fisherman in the mid-1800's as an ingenious way to have your fish and eat it too. There is no interpretation, exaggeration, or opinion expressed in the print. It is simply the impression of the fish, as it was. To me, looking at the image is a reminder that outside the walls of the house, office, school, gym, etc. there exists a simple, natural world which was created in the beginning, is still alive now, and will continue long after I'm gone. My hope is that we will engage with the natural world more often, and that we will be careful to protect it, so that our children and their children can enjoy it, as I have.



Wesley Strickland



Kelly Sullivan

Kelly Sullivan is a Tuscaloosa based artist and retired registered nurse, whose creative journey has merged her passion for art with her love of nature. After years of working as a floral designer specializing in weddings and events, Kelly's artistic focus has evolved into large scale plaster and fabric sculptures, which are inspired by the intricate beauty of flowers. As a self-taught artist, Kelly's work is not bound by traditional approaches but instead explores the fluidity and freedom of three-dimensional design. Her current collection features dynamic sculptures that fuse elements from various floral forms, capturing the essence of nature rather than depicting a single bloom. These pieces are uniquely lightweight and could be easily displayed in a range of spaces. Offering an unexpected and striking visual impact. Kelly's sculptures are inspired by the delicate structures of flowers. Her designs will add dimension to your space with depth and texture .

Living in Tuscaloosa and the mother of four boys, Susan loves spending time with her five men, but she needs to have some time for "girl stuff" and nothing says "girl" more to Susan than beautiful jewelry. Her handcrafted one of a kind pieces combine elegance and earthiness. Chains and leathers may be combined with semiprecious stones, quartz or pearls. Her pieces showcase natural and unique gemstones and minerals, pave diamond one of a kind pieces, 24k gold, fine leathers and much more. Susan loves seeing people wearing her creations, "it makes me feel that I am adding a little extra touch to their 'look'." Each of Susan Standeffer Designs' pieces are handcrafted by Susan herself in her studio in Tuscaloosa, AL.



**Susan Standeffer
Designs**



Kristie Taylor

Kristie Taylor believes God created a beautiful world to be nurtured and explored. It is this love that inspired her to become a beekeeper and keeps her traveling with her husband and two daughters. She paints what she loves and is reminded every time she is in her apiary that beauty is all around us!

A Tuscaloosa native, Leska grew up always being creative. Her mother was an artist and instilled in her a love of art from a very young age. After graduating from Athens College with a degree in Art Education, she began a thirty year career in retail and the fashion industry. All the while, assisting her mother with art workshops. They brought nationally known artist to Tuscaloosa to do workshops for aspiring artists. After raising four children and retiring from full time work, she began a new career as an artist and a floral designer. “Just as it is with arranging flowers, as I build the arrangement, each flower tells me where it belongs. With each layer of flowers or colors in a painting my creation begins to take shape. Each floral arrangement or painting I complete brings such peace and happiness to me. While I mostly work by commission, I occasionally do some little paintings for fun. The Little Gallery Frame Shop allows me to display them for sale and they do very well. My floral design business is done mostly by referrals from clients and friends. It has really grown in the past ten years. I do parties, special events and an occasional small wedding. I am very blessed to have a following here in town that keeps me as busy as I want to be. God has been very good to me.”



Leska Taylor



Kara Warr

Kara Strobe Designs features fine jewelry made of 14k gold, sterling silver, diamonds, freshwater pearls and natural gemstones. Every piece is made by craftsmen in New York, India or in Alabama where Kara Strobe Designs is based. Kara also works with clients to create custom pieces. Kara Strobe Warr has been making jewelry since attending the University of Alabama. She lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama along with her husband, Michael, and four children. You can find the collection online at www.karastropedesigns.com and on Instagram @ karastropedesigns.

Mary Jean Crenshaw Weaver grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. Influenced by family artists and with a great love for animals, “Mojo” recalls her persistent determination to draw every animal she encountered. She received an Advertising degree and a master’s degree in Finance from the University of Alabama. During grad school, she took art history classes and studio art with the renowned artist Al Sella. Mojo spent 20 years most passionately devoted to raising her two children but included annual workshop instruction from numerous modern masters.*

More recently...Continuing to study and learn daily while painting regularly in her Tuscaloosa, AL studio and occasionally dropping into NYC art ateliers. “I’m enjoying this passion for painting, drawing and exploration more than ever! I find an intimacy with the simplest of creatures and settings. When light plays across any subject, I feel a spiritual sense of intrigue and am reminded of God’s creativity.”



Mojo Weaver



Margaret Wilson

I have had a life-long love for all things associated with crayons, colored pencils, glue, paper, paint and art appreciation. In Tuscaloosa I became active in helping with art projects and art appreciation in public schools over the years. I have benefitted from a wealth of workshops in Tuscaloosa that have involved well-known artists from around the country. And many very accomplished local artists have helped and taught and enriched this fun hobby. Oils and watercolors and art books remain my favorites, but I appreciate all of the arts.

Birmingham native Lee Wilson can trace her artistic expression and desire to paint to early childhood. Enrolling in art lessons was the first step of a career that carried her to the University of Montevallo and later the University of North Alabama to pursue studies in both art and interior design. While working in the interior design field, her passion for painting was reignited after taking a position in an art gallery. Wilson's abstracts, landscapes and figure images demonstrate her use of bold, vibrant color and movement-creating brushstrokes. Abstracts have become a favorite to produce with geometric shapes and lines anchoring the composition, as well as billowy cloud formations that consume the canvas. Lee Wilson's work hangs in numerous private collections throughout the region as well as corporate collections including: Liberia Bank, Kirkland Clinic at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Samford University, University of Georgia, Upward Headquarters in South Carolina, Springhouse Restaurant at Lake Martin, Hoffman Media and River Region Cardiology to name a few. She has also been featured in a number of publications including Birmingham Home & Garden, Birmingham Magazine, Lifeline Journal, Distinction Magazine, Southern Lady Magazine and Tuscaloosa Magazine. Lee resides in Hoover, Alabama with her husband.



Lee Wilson



Cindy Yarbrough

Designers



Peggy Ball

Tuscaloosa based self-proclaimed creative enthusiast, Peggy Ball, has been honing her skills in painting and creative floral design since 2002. Being a stay-at-home mom has given her the opportunity to explore her creative talents throughout her home, always noticing areas to change or adding a little splash of character here and there, while managing the day-to-day duties as a wife and mother of 4. She says, “making things with my hands puts my mind into a soothing space that gives me serenity.” Being immersed in her surroundings allows Peggy to challenge the boundaries of the ordinary and imagine her next project. Peggy’s love of flowers has always been present from her earliest memories from picking a dandelion as a tot to seeking the most fragrant and dramatic flowers one can find. Flowers allow me to spread joy to a friend or an area of my home as a daily reminder of the comfort of flowers.

Saturday was the best day of the week growing up. My Grandmother and I would set out early and hit as many garden centers as we could. I soaked up every lesson and loved creating my own garden. The desire to learn more and create never stopped, even with Huntsville Texas in the rearview mirror. Along the way I formally studied Horticulture and became a Master Gardener, but the magical part of gardening, that certain something that touches your soul, that came from my grandmother. Tuscaloosa has been home for over 10 years, and I fell in love with this bustling southern college town immediately. I worked as a personal gardener for some amazing people. Designing, planting and growing their dream garden was such a privilege. I’ve worked with growers, interior and landscape designers, as well as managing nurseries over the years. Now it’s time for this next step. This garden shop has always been in me. A place to offer the highest quality products and services. A place designed to be fun and inspiring, where you can learn and create your own vision, and maybe just like me, you’ll find a little bit of magic along the way.



Bittinger & Co.



Debra Black

I would like to think I bring vibrance and zest in everything I do. Originally from Connecticut, I am embracing retirement with my husband and my adorable lab, Bingo. A passionate home cook, I love to cook at home creating fresh, flavorful dishes with herbs and vegetables straight from my garden. I also have a keen eye for design and I thoroughly enjoy helping others create stunning outdoor living spaces. When not in the garden, I will be at the beach and living life with energy and adventures.

Bloom Flower Truck owners, Todd and Kristin Logan are both Tuscaloosa natives and active members of the community. For the past 9 years, Kristin has spent the majority of her days bringing "bunches" of joy to the people in Tuscaloosa and surrounding communities. Fern, the mini green flower truck, is named after Kristin's beloved Great-Grandmother! Fern can be seen with her mascot Bud, a mini goldendoodle, scooting around town, popping up for special events, and all over campus delivering beautiful "BLOOMS"!



**Bloom Flower
Truck**



Emma Kathryn Brint is the owner and lead designer of 'Blooms by Brint'. Her passion lies in curating beautiful moments and lasting memories through thoughtfully crafted floral designs. From intimate gatherings to milestone events, Emma Kathryn believes every occasion deserves to be honored with fresh, intentional florals, that reflect the heart of the moment. Emma Kathryn graduated from The University of Alabama, where she earned a degree in Business Management and Entrepreneurship. While studying, she asked herself, “What do I love, and how can I turn that into a business?” The answer—florals—quickly blossomed into a business that beautifully merges creativity, connection, and purpose. Emma Kathryn is grateful for every floral endeavor and excited to be apart of this years Art in Bloom

Blooms By Brint

Alice Walker said, “Whenever you are creating beauty around you, you are restoring your own soul.” This is what floral design means to me. My grandmother planted a row of wildflowers every year in her vegetable garden. Those wildflowers ended up on her kitchen table or beside her kitchen window. I learned at a very early age, she loved to see flowers grow, vegetables grow, and her family grow. Her love for growth was not lost on me. I carry that torch with pride and a new passion. Floral design is restorative art. Art changes the world, giving meaning and purpose to the lives we live. How are you creating beauty in your life? Let art lead the way! Dr. Boman lives in Tuscaloosa with her partner, Dr. Howard Winfield. She has one son, Hunter Boman and two beautiful grandchildren, Emalyn and Hollis.



Terri Boman



Bradley's Market

Bradley Bailey, a Tuscaloosa native, has spent the majority of her life in her beloved hometown. After graduating from the University of Alabama in 2011 with a degree in Food & Nutrition, Bradley pursued a career in Clinical Nutrition, dedicating eight years to the field. In 2019, her passion for community and entertaining led her to open Bradley's Market, a retail store that celebrates the joy of gift-giving and gathering together. Offerings include tabletop and barware, food and wine, and unique gifts. Outside of the Market, Bradley dedicates her time to her husband, Charlie, and their two daughters, Anne Everett and Caroline.

Rebecca Burney is a professor at the University of Alabama in the Clothing, Textiles, and Interior Design department. She joined the university after a 20-year career in the New York fashion industry, and enjoys sharing her experiences, skills, and stories with students. Her teaching focuses on the hands-on creative components of fashion, such as designing garments, patternmaking, sewing construction, and fashion illustration. Rebecca also has a passion for historical costume, having worked in theater and opera before entering the fashion industry. At Christ Episcopal, she has discovered a new love for floral design. This is her second year serving on the Altar Guild at Christ Episcopal Church. Rebecca hails from Indianapolis, and received her BA from Indiana University. She also has an AAS from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and an MFA in fashion design from Savannah College of Art and Design.



Rebecca Burney



Connie Butler

My cup runneth over for the past 30 years, spreading love, making friends, and designing my heart out. From floor plans, painting, building, planting, and everything in between, I've done it all... and I'm thrilled to wind down this season of life and embrace the magic of our two precious grandchildren. Thank you all for loving me!

My love of flowers began as a young girl working with my grandmother in her flower garden. Working with flowers brought me so much joy, and I was eager to learn more about colors and textures at an early age. I have always tried to honor my grandmother by sharing my love of flowers with family and friends. After my retirement from UA in 2005, I began designing for clients for small parties. My biggest compliment is to see a happy client that loves my creations custom created for their event.



C. Patton Designs



Chandler Allen Interiors

Allison Thomas and Libby Stovall opened Chandler Allen Interiors in March 2025 in downtown Northport. They share a love of unique art, textiles, antiques, and home furnishings. The shop is an eclectic mix of hand-picked items, which includes a design studio where the duo can assist clients with a variety of interior projects.

A native of Montgomery, Alabama, Matthew Clinton moved to Tuscaloosa in 2001 as a freshman to pursue a pre-law degree in American Studies. What should have been a career in law and politics shifted his sophomore year into the field of design. While completing his undergraduate degree in interior design at the University, Matt's gift was noticed by Dr. Robert Witt and his knack for people quickly landed him a job in the Events Office of the President. There a love and appreciation for flowers were born. After serving full time his senior year, Matt decided working in the private sector was best having dabbled in gift store ownership in college. Matt Clinton Designs has served Tuscaloosa officially since 2006, but he remembers starting flowers for sorority recruitment as early as 19.

With a love for travel, Matt has made New York a constant source for inspiration. There he has had master classes with European designers for London, Paris and Amsterdam, even including an intense study with King Charles's personal florist. But his Southern roots always pull him back home, serving a community and university that has done so much for him.



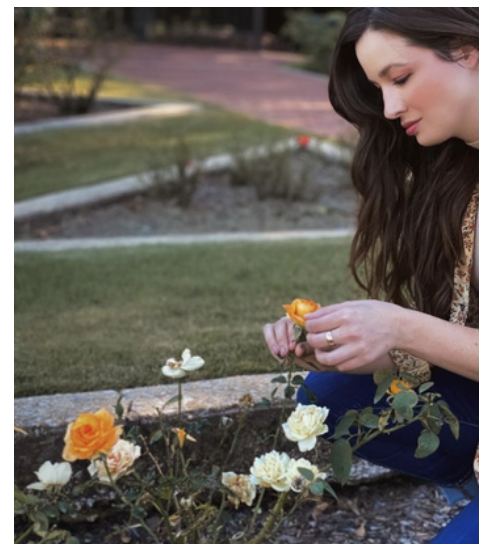
Matt Clinton



Kathryn Evans

Kathryn Evans, a Mississippi girl at heart, resides in Tuscaloosa with her husband and their three children. For the past 20 years, they’ve breathed new life into each place they’ve called home. From a quaint 1920s bungalow to an untouched mid-century modern ranch, and even a “left-for-dead” 1990s property, Kathryn’s vision and James’ patience have been a perfect pairing. Her keen eye for blending different home styles with her love for antiques, function, and light has been the hallmark of their renovation projects. Flowers have always been a form of therapy for Kathryn, creating beauty and joy in her home. If you’ve known Kathryn for long, chances are you’ve received a unique container filled with blooms on your doorstep. She believes flowers say things words can’t—lifting a friend’s spirits on a hard day, expressing gratitude when “thank you” isn’t enough, and making someone feel seen when they feel alone. The one time she truly lets her perfectionism go is when her hands are arranging flowers, embracing the art of imperfection in the blooms she creates.

My name is Amelia. I’m originally from Tuscaloosa, but I spent the past 10 years living in New York City, where I became a full-time florist. Over time, I transitioned into freelance floral design, which gave me the opportunity to travel and work on a wide range of exciting events. I moved back to Alabama last August and purchased a Victorian cottage in Greensboro, where I now live with my cat, Piper.



Amelia Flora



GLOW Floral Event Design

Tammy West—Owner and Creative Director of Glow Floral Event Design—has been turning dreams into stunning realities. From intimate weddings to luxury celebrations, corporate events, and everything in between, Tammy’s signature style blends elegance, creativity, and flawless detail. At Glow Floral, we specialize in creating unforgettable experiences with breathtaking blooms, seamless planning—and even custom daily flower deliveries designed to brighten someone’s day. Whether it’s a backyard wedding, a grand ballroom affair, a destination event, or a thoughtful floral surprise, we’re here to make your vision shine. Tammy’s passion for beauty, connection, and storytelling is what truly drives her love for this business. Every event and arrangement is more than just a design—it’s a heartfelt experience brought to life with care, intention, and joy.

Miranda Harbin is a Tuscaloosa native whose love for flowers began in childhood, learning alongside her grandmother. She earned her art degree from the University of Alabama and spent time teaching art in public schools before making the decision to stay home and homeschool her own children.



Miranda Harbin



In Fiore Florals

In Fiore began when Liza was navigating the uncertainty of a post-grad job search with a heart for weddings and events. One day, she visited a local wholesaler to buy flowers for her sister’s home. Surrounded by blooms, and encouraged by her mom’s nudge to “just go for it,” the idea of starting her own floral company took root. In the beginning, In Fiore lived entirely inside Liza’s kitchen. Flowers filled the kitchen sink, covered the counters, and took over the den — every surface becoming a makeshift studio. What started as a few arrangements quickly grew into full time floral event design.

From day one, In Fiore has been built on meaningful design, deep relationships, going above and beyond the call of duty, and an unrelenting commitment to integrity. These values guide every bouquet, every event, every celebration we touch. Today, In Fiore is more than florals — it’s a place where stories are honored, beauty is created, and moments are designed to be remembered.



**The Plant Lady
Nursery**



Kelly Wilkin
Floral Creative

Kelly Wilkin Floral Creative is a full-service floral design studio specializing in artful, refined arrangements for weddings and events. Kelly is best known for lush textures, intentional color palettes, and elevated garden-style designs with attention to detail. Kelly Wilkin has always loved flowering and feels it's a way to connect to people in a beautiful, tangible way. Her passion began when her sons were tiny toddlers in preschool and to this day they are her biggest fans. When she isn't flowering you can find her at a ballpark or gym supporting her sons in their athletic endeavors. She draws inspiration from travels with her family and loves supporting her community through her flower works. Kelly has said that "flowering has brought many lifelong friendships to me and I'm grateful the Lord has allowed me to use this skill to make others feel special."

Caroline began her love of flowers at a young age watching her parents and Wayne Adams arrange flowers for parties. When she really learned how to do flowers was when she started working for Matt Clinton and he taught her everything she knows. Her full time job is being the executive director of the Tuscaloosa Education Foundation. Raising funds for city and county schools. In her spare time she loves to watch her daughter dance and her son play basketball and soccer.



Caroline Lasseter



Lacy Lavender

Creating beautiful arrangements using fresh flowers has always been a hobby of mine. I have discovered that bringing in the outdoors instantly elevates any interior space. Participating in this year's event is such an honor. Hank has been inspiring me ever since he was a little boy gliding through the hallways of Verner in his Auburn decorated wheelchair. War Eagle!

Amanda Laycock was raised in Tuscaloosa, AL, where her love for the outdoors blossomed naturally. With her family owning Barton's, she was immersed in a world of plants and nature from a young age. Working alongside her family at the business, she developed a deep passion for creating beautiful floral designs for both interiors and exteriors - a love that has only grown stronger over time.



Amanda Laycock



Lora Locklear

My love of florals began at an early age as I watched my dad cultivate the many different varieties scattered throughout our Tuscaloosa backyard. But it was mama who taught me about composition, balance and complimentary colors as she prepared arrangements for our church on Sunday or for a friend in need of a pick-me-up. The cherished gifts of visual appreciation and design principles handed down from my parents were instrumental in helping me obtain my degree in interior design. Now-a-days you can find me living in the country renovating an old farmhouse with my high school sweetheart and 6 rescue dogs.

In 2016, Sydney Burns, a University of Alabama alumna, opened Lou & Co. in the heart of downtown Tuscaloosa. What began as a passion for thoughtfully curated gifts quickly became a beloved specialty gift shop known for its unique and elevated selection of gifts, decor, art, and jewelry.



Lou & Company



Marigold Design

Mary Cox Brown is the owner of Marigold Floral designs located in Birmingham.

Marigold Design is a full-service floral design studio that combines artfully crafted creations with brilliant and rich colors to elevate your events. Each arrangement is unique, intentionally designed to encapsulate the spirit of your events and amplify the ambiance in every room.

Under the direction of Mary Cox Brown, who formally trained at the New York Flower School, her team delivers one of a kind floral designs that fully capture your vision. Based in Birmingham, Alabama she works with teams throughout the southeast.

Whether you prefer bold and bright or soft and elegant arrangements (or something in between), Marigold Design specializes in crafting creations that speak to the mood of the event.

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Lou & Company



Michael Sanchez
Designs

I live in a world of color, sound and endless beauty and possibilities.

I have always chosen to look at every situation in life as an opportunity to learn and evolve but never take anything too seriously!

Incomplete, Imperfect, but always evolving, laughing and dreaming.

A Bell Is A Cup Until It Is Struck

Hi I'm Susannah Moseley. I am a senior at Northridge, and will be heading to the University of South Alabama in the fall! I am also a member of the flower guild at Christ Episcopal Church, and have been mentored by Steven Toranto. For this arrangement, I was inspired by the whimsical, colorful, and traditional nature of this piece. I have always enjoyed using my creativity with floral design as all good southerners should!!



Susannah Moseley



Jo Musselwhite

Jo has lived in Tuscaloosa for over 45 years. She is married & has 3 grown children & 1 precious grandchild. She has taken flower arranging classes from Leska Taylor, Dean Walburn, & is a Master Gardener.

Shannon Nece is the founder and owner of Nece Floral Designs, an event floral boutique established in 2018 in Northport, Alabama. A dedicated entrepreneur and event florist, Shannon has been a proud resident of Northport for over 20 years. Her passion for florals began during a deeply personal time—when her mother was battling cancer, and her daughter’s wedding date had to be moved up to ensure her mother could attend. While most vendors were able to adjust, the venue and florist could not, leading Shannon to step in and design the flowers herself. That pivotal experience revealed not only a natural talent but also a deep love for floral artistry, setting her on a new career path.



Nece Floral Designs



Penny's Petals

Abby Norris and Kaitlyn Creel have owned Penny's Petals for nearly four years. We are proud to call Brookwood, AL our home and arranging florals our passion! In true southern fashion, surrounded by beautiful blooms from our grandparents' gardens, we determined that some of our simplest joys could be created from something as small as a few hydrangeas in a jar. Our mission from the beginning has been to use our talents to provide those same simple joys for our clients in all walks of life. From wedding days to "just because" bouquets, we have been blessed to grow and serve our community and clients.

Krista Poole is originally from Brentwood, TN and came to college at the University of Alabama where she met her husband, John. Since a young age, she's had a love for art, drawing, painting, flowers, decorating and loves projects. She's worked at Hudson-Poole Fine Jewelers in the family business for over 28 years. Working in a locally owned family business has allowed her to expand her talents over the years. She specializes in custom design jewelry, diamonds, colored gemstones, jewelry repairs, bridal registry, tabletop, and giftware and is knowledgeable about all areas of the jewelry industry.



Krista Poole



Dena Prince

Dena Prince practices law with Prince Glover Hayes but loves to spend free time in her yard where she grows hydrangeas, camellias, roses (not hybrid!!), viburnum, herbs and a few vegetables along with summer annuals. Dena grew up on a farm outside Greensboro, Alabama. Her love of gardening and particularly her love of flowers was nurtured by her paternal grandmother who had a beautiful rose garden and annual beds. When she was 30, she began “dabbling” in flower arranging and soon began doing weddings and parties for friends and relatives. She most enjoys doing flowers for church, using what little talent she has to bring more beauty into worship. Dena delights in the intricacies of the flowers she loves and feels that intricacy affirms God’s desire that we relish and appreciate his creation.

Sara Hart and Katherine Gould, the duo behind *Queen City Florals*, have turned their shared passion for beautiful blooms into a flourishing business in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Whether it’s for everyday arrangements or monumental occasions like weddings, sorority recruitment, and corporate events, Sara and Katherine pour their hearts into every piece, ensuring that each design brings joy and a touch of elegance to their clients. Known for their creativity and dedication, they cherish the opportunity to embrace artistic freedom in their installations, ensuring that each event is a memorable and beautiful experience.



Queen City Florals



Cole Rosenbaum

Cole Rosenbaum is an event planner, designer, florist, and chef known for her remarkable ability to transform any gathering into a meaningful, memorable experience. As the founder of Julia Cole Events, she brings a refined eye, heartfelt creativity, and thoughtful detail to every occasion she touches. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, Cole attended the University of Alabama, where her love for floral design and intimate entertaining truly began to flourish. Inspired early on by her mother—one of her greatest influences—Cole developed a passion for bringing people together and creating beauty in every moment. Whether she’s designing a lavish celebration or an intimate dinner party, Cole curates experiences that are as personal as they are unforgettable.

Schoolyard Roots is a Tuscaloosa-based nonprofit that cultivates curiosity and connections through hands-on learning gardens. Through its Gardens 2 Schools program, Schoolyard Roots partners with local elementary schools to provide outdoor classroom experiences that bring science, nutrition, and environmental learning to life. Serving more than 4,000 students each year, the organization helps children grow fresh food, explore nature, and build healthy habits that last a lifetime. The flowers and plants in this arrangement were grown in Schoolyard Roots partner elementary school gardens and arranged by Executive Director Nicole Gelb Dugat and Program Director Sandie Champion—bringing a small piece of the school garden experience to support the Hank Poore Foundation.



Schoolyard Roots



Brody Southern

Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Brody Southern started sharing his love of floral design on Instagram this past year. With a background in musical theatre, he has always cherished art, creativity, and personal expression. Currently residing in Birmingham, AL, he is soon relocating to Charleston, SC, with his partner who will be an Internal Medicine resident at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is thrilled to be a part of Art in Bloom with The Hank Poore Foundation and would like to thank Kathy Poore and Ashley Ferry for their love and support over the past 10+ years.

Ray has been a part of the floral industry for 40 years. As a graduate of UA with a degree in Interior design, he has always been in touch with design. Learning his floral techniques from a master, Wayne Adams, his style tends to the natural and European design. He has served as the Director of Special Events for The President of The University of Alabama and Board of Trustees, for 17 years. Ray spends his off time in the theater and is very active with local non profits.



Ray Taylor



James Thomas

Originally hailing from Kennedy, Alabama, James Thomas is an award-winning hairstylist and national Aveda educator. His transition into floral artistry was born organically using some of the same techniques from his hairstyling career. Color theory, texture and symmetry (or lack thereof) are all crossover elements he employs in all of his artist mediums. He now works as a freelance artist with WildThings Flowers in Homewood, AL and founded PetalHaus Floral Design in 2025.

Alabama native owning Jester's Flowers for over 25 years until joining Indian Hills Country Club in 2013 till present.



Gary Turner



Tuscaloosa Flower Shoppe is a full service florist with delivery servicing the Tuscaloosa, Northport, Duncanville, Cottondale, Vance areas since 1921.

Tuscaloosa Flower Shoppe

A native Mississippian with agrarian roots on both sides of her family, Michelle has always enjoyed playing in the dirt and aspires to be a hobby farmer. She is a graduate of Millsaps College and the University of MS School of Law and is the mother of two teenagers.



Michelle Waits

Dean Walburn

Celebrity event designer, Scot Wedgeworth, (aka Mr. Fabulous), is a well-known wedding and event designer from the “deep and dirty” South. A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, his over-the-top rock-and-roll style, outrageous personality, along with his edgy flair for design sets him apart from the typical event designer and has given him a successful 31-year career in the floral, event and entertainment industry. When just 19 years old, and against the good intentions of his parents, Scot dropped out of college as a pre-Med student with honors, intending on being an ER doctor, to follow his dream of designing and creating events—a job he believes he was born and destined to do. He never looked back.



Scot Wedgeworth



Cal Wilson

Cal Wilson is a creative floral designer forced to practice law. Cal enjoys using his talents in support of organizations like Historic Tuscaloosa and the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra, and is honored to be included as an "artist" supporting the Hank Poore foundation. He proudly reports that he has no credentials for his avocation, and thinks often of Emerson's words: "Every artist was once an amateur."

Birmingham native Asheley York calls Tuscaloosa, Alabama home with her 4 precious children and mini doodle Jordan. After moving within the city of Tuscaloosa more times than she can count she loves to create beautiful yet livable spaces for her clients while always adding a fresh floral touch before she walks out the door of any space or event. Let her style speak for itself, and her love of making every space inviting yet always charming, Ash will always leave you wanting more of her creative eye on any project big or small.



Asheley York



Kathy Zeanah

My bio is simple...Born into Families that all gardened. Many of Grandmothers flowers are still being enjoyed. I love the old fashioned blooms.

The smell of geraniums and petunias are as special as their blooms!

Flowers are love, share the love!