

# GLOW



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023 **Auction Artist & Artwork Details**

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**Can't Make the Event on Nov 3rd?  
Bid Online!**

Enter Your [Proxy Bid Online here](#) or  
by scanning the  
QR code



### **GLOW PROXY BID INSTRUCTIONS**

Bid on ARTWORK anytime before noon Nov 3rd!

- Fill out the form
- Enter your maximum bid for the artworks you would like to bid on. If your bid is higher than the in-person bid on November 3rd, we will enter your winning bid as \$25 higher/or the next auctioned increment until your limit is reached.

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Amanda Bielby

**Title** Welcome

**Material** Soft pastel on paper

**Value** 280

### Inspiration

The Petunias and balcony on the fourth floor of the Library screamed welcome, come and stay awhile. So I did. I sat and did a plein-air painting of the landscape but took photos of the flower boxes and worked on this piece later in my studio. The Library is a fresh new building for our community, and I feel this drawing speaks to that and complements the beautiful architecture in this building.



### About the Artist:

I am a creator. I am like water and air. Art allows me to work around my physical and mental disabilities, gives me the strength to continually adapt and move around life's obstacles, and be flexible as a mother, supporter, and caretaker to my family. It makes me valuable and gives me purpose.

[artworkarchive.com/profile/amanda-bielby](https://artworkarchive.com/profile/amanda-bielby)

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Aspen Decker

**Title** Xwłčmusšn 'Ancestor's' Dream

**Material** Antique ledger paper from 1872 and mixed media of canvas and paint

**Value** \$2000

### Inspiration

My artwork is composed of a mix of 1890s antique music paper and delicate cowrie shells hand stitched to the traditional Salish style dress that is created on a 1947 Montana tax ledger. The acrylic paint is integrated onto a canvas backdrop featuring huckleberries and golden brass conches, typically used on powwow dance regalia. This mixed media creation serves as a commentary on the intersection of history, culture, and nature. The aged ledger paper symbolizes the passage of time and record-keeping, while the shells evoke the enduring beauty of Salish women. The elements of this piece represent the intricate connections between our ancestors and the future they fought for to ensure the continuation of language and culture. This dream shows my daughter, who's named after her great great grandfather Chief Charlo, aka Plentyhorses. She is a first-language Salish speaker, the dream of passing on the ways of our people and our language.



### About the Artist:

Aspen Decker is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe and a speaker of her tribal language Nsélišcn 'Salish language'. She graduated with a master's degree in linguistics from the University of Montana in 2021.

Aspen is a Native ledger artist. The ledger pieces are a way for her to connect to her ancestors and shed light on their existence. Her art is a way of teaching Séliš and Ksanka history, language, and culture.



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Becky Roberts

**Title** Lee Marvin's Missoula

**Material** Assemblage

**Value** \$600

### Inspiration

This sculpture is influenced by the many types of media contained within the library as well as the library itself. The different levels of the sculpture mimic the levels of the library and its alpine climb theme. The city of Missoula was a source of inspiration as well and can be seen in the piece.



### About the Artist:

Becky Roberts is a California native and Montana transplant, she has always been a maker of sorts. Graduating from San Francisco State University with a degree in Cinema she found a career in the floral industry. Aside from being an artist, Becky is a mom, cat lover, and avid thrifter. She finds her true passion as an assemblage and collage artist, reimagining the world around her through found objects. As such, she has a lifelong love of tacky glue.

[Postcardsfrombox39.com](https://www.postcardsfrombox39.com)



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Bracha Tenenbaum

**Title** Paradise I

**Material** Watercolor,  
Watercolor Pencil

**Value** \$355

### Inspiration

As a Missoula resident raising two young children, I find myself at the library frequently, often making multiple visits in a single day. To me, the library is nothing short of paradise. The sight of bookshelves framed against the breathtaking backdrop of our natural surroundings serves as a constant and heartwarming reminder of the things that truly bring me joy: my beloved family, the solace of a good book, and time spent in nature.



### About the Artist:

Bracha grew up in Brooklyn, NY and moved to Missoula, MT in 2015 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Columbia University. Bracha is a self-taught artist and continuously explores different mediums and subjects, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, textiles, portraits, Montana landscapes, as well as themes around her Hasidic upbringing, Jewish identity and motherhood.

[brachatenenbaum.com](http://brachatenenbaum.com)

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Brandon Reintjes

**Title** Black Darts

**Material** Mixed Media

**Value** \$300

### Inspiration

The library is my preferred tool for information, visual or otherwise. I'm there weekly for a variety of reasons or events, all of which filter together as potential material for artmaking! This piece relates to stacks and stories, angles and compartments, not a rendering of the library space, but a mediation on influences and directions.



### About the Artist:

I am an artist and curator, and spend the majority of my time thinking about, looking at, and making art. I was born in Bozeman, Montana and grew up in Northern Michigan. I received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MA in curatorial and critical studies from the University of Louisville. Past exhibits include Zootown Arts Community Center and the Brink Gallery in Missoula, MT; Luminary Arts Center in St. Louis, MO, the 930 in Louisville, KY, Turman Larison Contemporary in Helena, and Aunt Dofe's Hall of Recent Memory in Willow Creek, MT.

[brandonreintjes.weebly.com](http://brandonreintjes.weebly.com)



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # BT Livermore

**Title** Triple Torch

**Material** Functional sculpture

**Value** 325

### Inspiration

During my Open Air residency in June 2023, although the library was not my actual residency location, it quickly became my second home in Missoula. The library's makerspace opened up new opportunities and avenues for my work through the use of technology I wouldn't normally have access to, and the library itself became a comforting place outside of my work studio to come up with ideas for the projects I was working on.



### About the Artist:

BT Livermore is a Butte-based artist and sign painter. Their work focuses mainly on traditionally handpainted letterforms and humorous phrasing, and often includes the use of vintage and reclaimed materials. BT also manages the Community Printmaking Studio at the Imagine Butte Resource Center.

[btlivermore.com](http://btlivermore.com)



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Chris Alveshere

**Title** Book Ends

**Material** Colored porcelain,  
Handmade grog, Cone 9 electric  
kiln fired

**Value** \$288

#### **Inspiration**

I created a set of book ends in the Missoula Public Library's logo colors. I was inspired by the geometric angles of the logo's design and reimagined it with a Memphis and Mid-Century Modern twist.



#### **About the Artist:**

Chris Alveshere is artist, educator, and co-owner of a community arts space in Missoula, MT. He received degrees in ceramics and art education from Minnesota State, Moorhead, MN and his MFA in Ceramics from Alfred University. Chris currently teaches at the University of Montana, as well as community art courses.

[www.chrisalveshere.com](http://www.chrisalveshere.com)

## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Caitlin Finley

**Title** deep time crystal bucket

**Material** bucket, household chemicals, pigment

**Value** \$500



#### **About the Artist:**

Cait Finley is an American artist working in Montana. Her/their work is about the differences between human perceptions of time, and geological time. Using sculpture, writing, video, and performance, to fantasize kinships with entities much larger and more nebulous herself. Preferring to think of things like petroleum, capitalism, and global warming as entities in order to see more clearly how they fit into human narrative timelines. And exploring the ways humans attempt to speed up and slow down geological time to more comfortably align with our corporeal, fleeting understanding of being.



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # David Johnson

**Title** Pillars

**Material** acrylic

underpainting with oil finish

**Value** \$800

#### **Inspiration**

The physical space of the library was designed with light access in mind, and yet I've been struck by the way light emanates outward from the building at night since construction was completed. Illumination, both physical and cerebral, inspired the fantasy nocturne for "Pillars."



#### **About the Artist:**

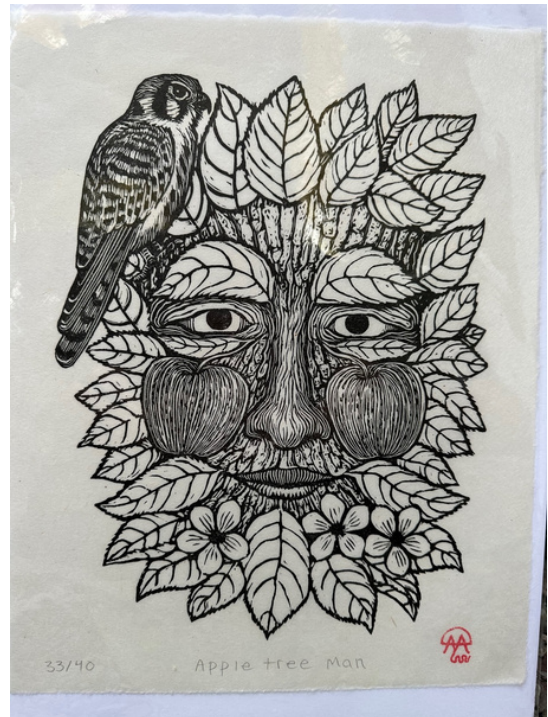
D.L. Johnson is a Missoula-based illustrator, painter, and writer from the vast plains of central Montana. Born near the feedlot where his father ran cattle in Columbus, MT, he grew up primarily in Great Falls, where he simultaneously learned to love the natural world, hobby culture, and artists of the Rocky Mountain School.



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # David Lusk

**Artist** David Lusk  
**Title** Apple Tree Man  
**Material** Linoleum relief print,  
printed with oil based ink on Kozo  
paper  
**Value** \$100



#### **About the Artist:**

David Miles Lusk is an artist living and working out of Missoula, Montana. David received his Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in printmaking from the University of Montana in 2014. He is inspired by the intersection of science and mythology, and nature & humanity. He started Anomal Press in the fall of 2016.

<https://anomalpress.com>

## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # David Raba

**Title** Suspended  
**Material** Acrylic on repurposed OSB  
**Value** \$400

**Inspiration**

The scenery outside the library is what I'm moving on. The scenery visible from inside the library, specifically. I also tried to incorporate the color scheme used in the library



**About the Artist:**

Someone once told me I think too much. I used to think I always needed to make a statement. Now I think a barrage of statements becomes nothing more than noise. After all, a conversation can't happen unless we also listen. Geometry is good. Statements are great. Balance is best.

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Elaine Fraticelli

**Title** History Inspires Answers

**Material** Acrylic paint on canvas

**Value** \$190

### Inspiration

The Missoula Public Library is a hub of knowledge that can inspire change for the future. It's construction reflecting the different landscape elevations paired with the organic interior design choices give earth and the environment a seat next to near limitless knowledge of history and an abundance of human creativity. These combinations have the ability to inspire our next great environmental leaders, advocates, and activists; inspiring solutions to increasingly pressing problems.



### About the Artist:

My art is a mixture of images joining logic and emotions, reconstructing adversity in engaging and unfamiliar ways. Using different styles of art to push the boundaries of visual understanding, I illustrate the connection between the infinite expanse of nature and all the complexities of humanity.

[elainefraticelli.com](http://elainefraticelli.com)



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Jennifer Ogden

**Title** Water Wonder  
**Material** Mixed Media  
**Value** \$600

#### **Inspiration**

I noticed the place-based water table exhibit in the Water Room at MCPL when we had our initial artist walk-through. Children are always deeply engaged there. I have had the pleasure of bringing students to Missoula to see the new library building. They all really love the Water Room.



#### **About the Artist:**

Jennifer Ogden is a collage artist and teacher in the Bitterroot Valley in rural Western Montana. Her work is inspired by place, belonging, and examining what is there.

[yellowkitchenstudio.net](http://yellowkitchenstudio.net)

## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Jill Logan

**Title** Various  
**Material** Watercolor  
**Value** \$50-150



#### Inspiration

I love libraries. As a kid growing up in Missoula, we made it a ritual to go to the Carnegie Library. It was my happy place. When I had kids of my own, the Missoula Public Library was a big part of their lives. I want to give something back for all that the library has given me.



#### About the Artist:

Hi, My name is Jill Logan. I like to create art that is interactive. That's why I put song lyrics or names on the tree bark and branches in my landscapes. I recently discovered book edge painting and love the idea. I hope you like them.



# GLOW

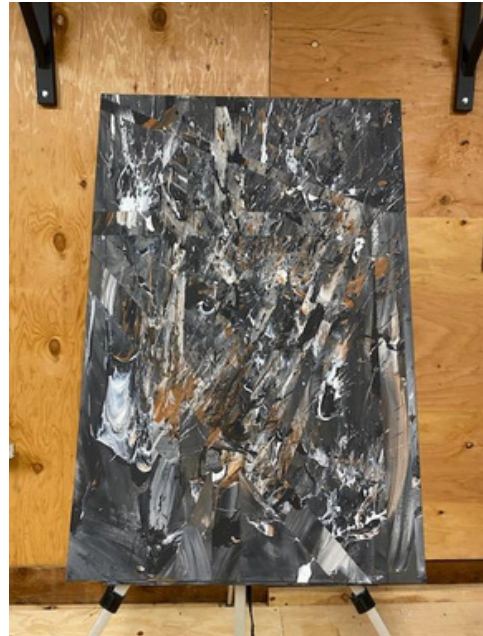


## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Jules Washington

**Title** Chasm  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$700

**Inspiration**  
I was inspired by the sharp lines  
and neutral colors of the library.



**About the Artist:**

Local personal trainer and painter who expresses emotion through paint and dance. I draw my inspiration from the beauty of Montana.



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Kaisha Gerhardt

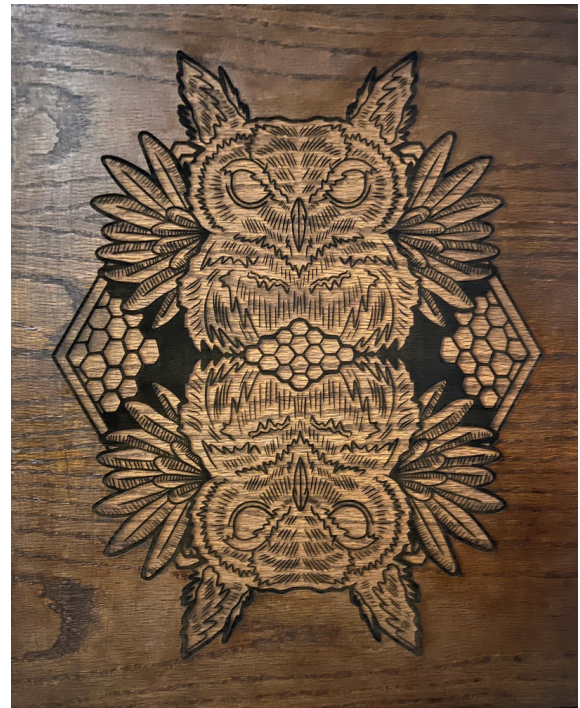
**Title** Hoo Glows There

**Material** Wood Burning

**Value** \$150

### Inspiration

The library served as a rich source of inspiration for me, particularly in its consistent use of hexagons evident in the architecture. Seeking to harness the resources of the Missoula Public Library's Makerspace, I integrated its offerings into my artwork. Utilizing the laser engraver, I engraved my design onto a wooden canvas. The overall design merges the geometric elements of the building with the symbolic representation of owls, capturing both the structural beauty and the knowledge embedded within the library.



### About the Artist:

Kaisha Gerhardt, a Media Arts student with a game design focus and a minor in business administration at the University of Montana, is a digital artist whose work navigates the realms of humor and macabre. Specializing in interactive digital art, Kaisha's creations beckon viewers to immerse themselves in whimsically dark and light-captivating experiences.

[kaishagerhardtart.weebly.com](http://kaishagerhardtart.weebly.com)

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## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Katie Machain

**Title** Water

**Material** Woodcut reduction  
print

**Value** \$500

**Inspiration**

This work, made in X represents the theme GLOW.



**About the Artist:**

Katie Machain is a Missoula-based artist who uses traditional methods of printmaking to create her colorful woodcut and linocut prints. Much of her subject matter explores the complex relationship between mother nature and the human experience. Katie is a mother of two, a wife of a small business owner, and a full-time professional picture framer for The Art Attic Framing and Design. Artwork, for now, is a serious side hustle that allows her to stay connected with her community.

[www.katiemachain.com](http://www.katiemachain.com)

# GLOW



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Kelli Sinner

**Title** Candelabra

**Material** Colored porcelain with yellow grog.

**Value** \$150

#### **Inspiration**

I was inspired by the theme GLOW. This candelabra was created to serve as the centerpiece at a dinner party, creating the perfect GLOW for people gathered in joy and friendship.



#### **About the Artist:**

Kelli Sinner is an artist, educator, and entrepreneur. Kelli received a BFA in Ceramics from Utah State University and an MFA in Ceramics from Penn State University. She makes one-of-a-kind porcelain pieces that are inspired by historic tableware and themes of hospitality. Kelli was an Art Professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead before moving to Montana, where she works as the Program Coordinator for Open AIR and is the Co-Founder of Workroom Montana, a community art space in Missoula.

[kellisinner.com](http://kellisinner.com)



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## #ladypajama

**Title** A Safe Space

**Material** Mixed Media

**Value** \$900

### Inspiration

When we went on the library tour, I was most moved by a man asleep in a chair. The library is a safe space, not only for kids to play, students to research, homeless to find shelter. But this man and anyone to nod off with a book in their lap.



### About the Artist:

Ladypajama is an otherworldly force of nature. Mixing paint, pencils, pens, and collage materials, she creates scenes that present ordinary objects and characters in a new dimension. Rather than working toward an end product, she tries to capture emotion and authenticity by just jumping in without a plan. Ladypajama is part of the Voncommon artist collective, and also publishes a monthly zine which includes poetry and personal essays. In addition, she is a great mom to her kid, Jorge.

[ladypajama.com](http://ladypajama.com)

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## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Laura Blue Palmer

**Title** Overdue

**Material** Oil

**Value** 400

#### **Inspiration**

This is an illustrative painting about a lone kestrel who has taken a library picture book about birds and the book is overdue. This is a collage wooden oil painting, the kestrel is 3D, there is a real miniature book that is full of art bird prints that I have created over the years. The mountains are Missoula's own Lolo Peak painted with a dreamy intuitive night sky and moon. This is a view outside the top floor of the new downtown library.



#### **About the Artist:**

I make ethereal atmospheric landscapes inspired by sunsets, skies, mountains, and water. My artwork is memory based and spend my free time skywatching, backpacking, and hiking in the wilderness. I am most interested in capturing color and light that play off of a landscape horizon.

[LauraBlueArt.com](http://LauraBlueArt.com)

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Lauren Norby

**Title** Self Portrait as Library Patron

**Material** Ink & Paint on Wood

**Value** \$700

### Inspiration

To create "Self Portrait as Library Patron" I took a list of 602 items which I have checked out from the Missoula Public Library in the past six years, and selected 95 of those items to draw in order on a grid. The items convey information about me to the viewer, but also hint at the diversity of culture available from the library.



### About the Artist:

Lauren Norby is an artist and filmmaker based in Missoula. He was raised in a remote cabin in the woods on a diet of comic books, alt weeklies and old movies. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The University of Montana, and earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from The University of California, Santa Barbara. Lauren enjoys telling stories through film, comics and zines. In his free time, he works in television production, and serves on the board of directors of the Zootown Arts Community Center.



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Lillian Nelson

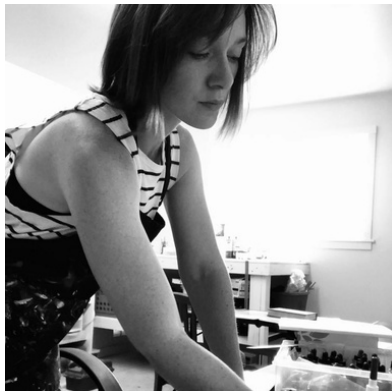
**Title** The Awakening of Silence

**Material** Acrylic and acrylic ink on wood

**Value** \$300

### Inspiration

The architectural design of the library aims to merge the natural world outside with its insides, creating a beautiful and peaceful learning space. It's also a method of making a potentially industrial (city library nested downtown) space more connected with nature. This concept and direction resonates with me and my own aesthetics powerfully. It put me in mind of a line from a poem by Dejan Stojanovic: "It is easy to see the glow but hard to recognize the awakening of silence." The ability to stop in our busy lives and not just see the natural beauty surrounding us, but to take it in, fully, and immerse ourselves in silence, is an important but sometimes difficult thing.



### About the Artist:

Nelson is a Montana native, earning her BFA from the University of Montana in 2007. She has collaborated and directed numerous art programs in the Missoula area since 2013, including E3 Gallery, VonCommon Studios, Allez Missoula, and currently Torrents, art programming for the Confluence Center. She has shown in multiple local and national exhibits, is represented by Radius Gallery and is a professional muralist in the region. [thedelusionartist.com](http://thedelusionartist.com)

# GLOW



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Mathew O'Reilly

**Title** Bison

**Material** Acrylic on canvas

**Value** 3000

#### **Inspiration**

The artwork was inspired by the libraries connection to the regional landscape. The bison, like the library, compelled me as an anchor of identity and meaning for the Missoula community. The story of the bison one of tragedy and redemption, a story akin to the human experience.



#### **About the Artist:**

Matthew O'Reilly is a Canadian emerging artist. He completed his MFA at the Alberta University for the Arts. Matthew received First Place NCECA Graduate Award of Excellence from the 2021 NCECA Juried Student Exhibition for his achievements in Grad School. Matthew was very honored to be the recent recipient of the 2022 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics and is a long term artist in residence at the Clay Studio of Missoula, Montana (2022-2024), where he will be exploring his relationship to the digitizing public square.

[mattheworeilly.ca](http://mattheworeilly.ca)

## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Nancy Fitch



**Title** Missouri Dreams

**Material** Watercolor on canvas board

**Value** \$400



**Title** Christmas Berries

**Material** Watercolor on canvas

**Value** 600

### Inspiration

I have used MPL for 40 years, raising children, book clubs, etc. The library has made me who I am, someone who tries to view life broadly and openly! I try to paint Montana's beauty, including passing beauty, transience, change, all of which I learned reading books at the library.



### About the Artist:

I'm a 70 year old retired physician, pursuing my lifelong passion now. I was almost a professional artist, having majored in art in college and painted most of my life but instead opted to be a doctor doing public health in Africa. I am now joyfully painting Montana's nature and people, trying to catch the mood, impermanence of fleeting beauty. I love watercolors because of their spontaneity and transparency. I prefer not to use glass when framing and often varnish and mount paintings directly on boards, to avoid reflections.



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Roxana Heinz

**Title** Shaded Forest

**Material** Driftwood, pine, acrylic

**Value** \$250

### Inspiration

The building had so many wonderful details that were connected to nature. From the wood wall that spanned the staircase top to bottom that was a map of Montana to the huge windows all around that kept you connected to the outdoors. I thought about the the levels of the forests as well while making my piece, I was really influence by all of it and just wanted to keep my piece simple and serene, just like this gorgeous library.



### About the Artist:

My self taught career started over 25 years ago when my grandmother took me on my first trip to Europe. Inspired by the beauty of the landscape, architecture, art and people I began drawing, making collages and sculpture. Influenced by nature and using found or recycled materials and objects for my work.

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Samantha Dwyer

**Title** Connections to Place

**Material** Mixed media acrylic

**Value** \$175

### Inspiration

I love our public library and the new space that brings in so many natural elements and reflections of the geography around us into the architecture. I used a combination of text from books and magazines, maps, and painted elements in reference to the library's varied collections and the local landscape and people who live here.



### About the Artist:

Sam Dwyer grew up in the Flathead Valley before moving to Missoula to attend the University of Montana where she majored in literature with a minor in studio art. Her works incorporate text and place in an exploration of how we see and interpret the world. Sam taught ceramics at the American School of Muscat in Oman for two years before returning to her home in Montana. She now works mostly in collage and acrylics when she is not at her job at the Clark Fork Coalition, helping protect and restore the river.

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Shelby Baldridge

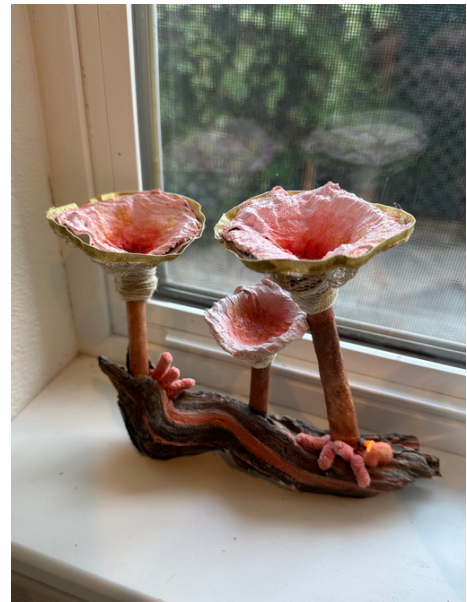
**Title** Three Fungettes

**Material** Found wood, sculpy clay, fabric, oil paint, gelatin

**Value** \$150

### Inspiration

This is a piece I created before my residency with Open Air at Garden City Harvest. It is inspired by the diverse array of forms and colors represented in the fungi kingdom; and particularly the similarity some mushrooms have to flowers despite our perception of them being quite distinct.



### About the Artist

Shelby Baldridge is an interdisciplinary artist currently based in Missoula, Montana. She works in sculpture and painting, and received an MFA in Visual Studies from the Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2020. Shelby's work centers around the non-human world and is influenced by natural sciences like biological evolution, ecological cycles and the connections between species.

[shelbybaldridge.com](http://shelbybaldridge.com)



# GLOW



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Stella Nall

**Title** Home is Where the Arrowleaf Balsamroots Are

**Material** Acrylic and Beadwork on Paper

**Value** \$1800

#### **Inspiration**

I asked myself some of the questions that were posed to the community when developing the work I was commissioned to do for the library DNA Climber and created this painting that centers my own connection to Missoula.

I grew up in Bozeman on a road called Arrowleaf Hills Drive, and many of my fondest memories from childhood are surrounded by the yellow flowers from its namesake, the Arrowleaf Balsamroot. When I moved to Missoula to go to the University, I was very homesick and struggled being away from my family. One of the things that brought me the most comfort during this transitional period was to go on many walks, hikes and trail runs where I could be surrounded by the same flower, here in my new home.



#### **About the Artist:**

Stella Nall “Bisháakinnesh” (Rode Buffalo) is a multimedia artist and poet from Bozeman, Montana. A first descendant of the Apsáalooke (Crow) tribe, her work is informed by her experiences navigating the world, and often centers current issues pertaining to Indigenous identity, visibility and representation. She graduated from the University of Montana in 2020 with a BFA in Printmaking, a BA in Psychology, and a minor in Art History and Criticism. She now lives in Missoula, where her visual art is represented by Radius Gallery. Her work appears in many collections and she is represented by Radius Gallery. [stellanall.com](http://stellanall.com)

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Stoney Samsoe

**Artist** Stoney Samsoe

**Title** Clover in Blue

**Material** Acrylic Paper Cut

**Value** \$600

### Inspiration

My favorite childhood book, *Watership Down*, inspires this work. When I think about the importance of a library as magnificent as ours, I think of the children who will grow up in this space -including my own son, born this year, in the year of the Water Rabbit.



### About the Artist:

Stoney received her MFA in sculpture and painting from Illinois State University and undergraduate degrees in Fine Arts, Psychology, and pre-nursing from The University of Montana. Her work has shown nationally, and she has been the recipient of numerous awards. Stoney is the co-founder and Executive Director of Open AIR.

# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Taylor Leigh

**Title** Reception

**Material** Fabric wall hanging

**Value** \$3000

### Inspiration

My selection of quilt pattern came to me one day as I was perusing quilt books in the library and came across one called "Border to Border: Historic Quilts and Quiltmakers of Montana" by Annie Hanshew. One of the images of these historic quilts immediately jumped out at me - of a Pineapple Log Cabin quilt made by a woman named Johanna Schmidt Stearns in 1900 (p. 97). The design immediately reminded me of radio waves and transmission - like a series of beacons reflecting off of each other. It felt like the ideal template to work from, and related back to the library being the site of the community radio station KGFM. It also felt meaningful to find creative guidance from a Montana seamstress from the turn of the century and incorporate her into this piece to honor the history and legacy of these spaces of congregation and learning.



### About the Artist:

Taylor Leigh is a mixed-media artist originally from Portland, OR. She works with soft materials to create site-specific installations, quilts, and fabric books, among other things. In her practice, she focuses attention on the tactile language of care embedded in textiles and their unique capacity to transform their environment.



# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Tessa Heck

**Title** Respite

**Material** Flashe on Wood Panel

**Value** 1500

### Inspiration

This work was created by my moment of rest after I had climbed to the top floor of the library. I was enamored with the children's space, and enjoying a moment of stillness after being with my young daughter all morning. The sun was bright that morning and the flowers were blooming on the roof deck. I felt so much calmness in that moment taking in the city views and looking out into the mountains before me.



### About the Artist:

Tessa Heck is a full time artist and mother living in Kalispell. She is a painter who makes prints and is the owner of Good Luck Gallery. She focuses on bright color palettes inspired by the landscape and people in her mountainous state. She received her BFA from Pacific Lutheran University in 2012, and her MFA in Visual Studies in 2016.

[tessaheck.com](http://tessaheck.com)

## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

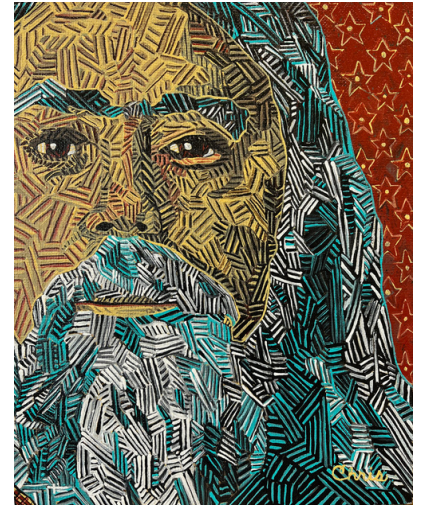
### # Tim Nielson



**Title** DEBRA MAGPIE EARLING  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$200



**Title** JAMES LEE BURKE  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$200



**Title** CHRIS LATRAY  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$200



#### **Inspiration**

Books rule. Authors rule.  
Local(ish) authors especially rule.

#### **About the Artist:**

Tim Nielson teaches art at Sentinel High School in lovely Missoula, Montana. He also paints pictures, mostly portraits of people who do good works.

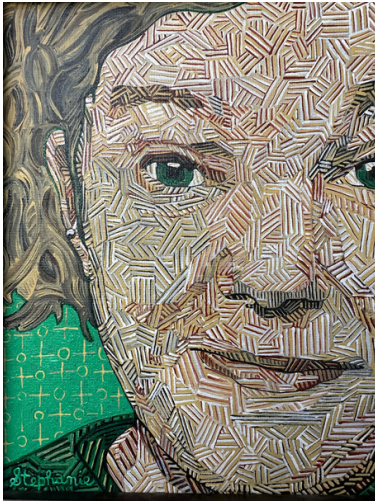


# GLOW

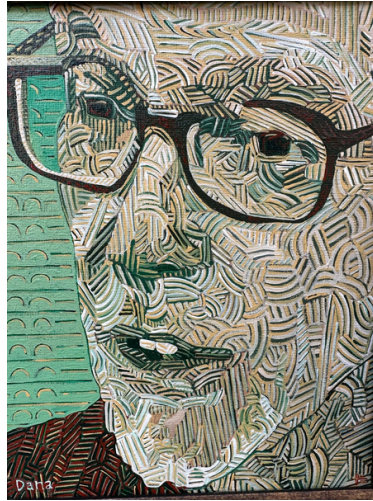


## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

# Tim Nielson



**Title** STEPHANIE LAND  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$200



**Title** DANA MCMURRAY  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$200



**Title** BARB THEROUX  
**Material** Acrylic  
**Value** \$200



### **Inspiration**

Books rule. Authors rule.  
Local(ish) authors especially rule.

### **About the Artist:**

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# Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

## # Tricia A Opstad

**Title** Martha Graham

**Material** Magazine & glue on paper

**Value** \$400

### Inspiration

From my early days living in Missoula back in 2004-2008, I frequently took free giveaway magazines from the public library's backdoor outside bins to make collages. Libraries hold the physical publications, such as, books, DVDs and magazines. I grew up holding these familiar objects for learning, enjoyment, looking and reading. My interaction with the object, the tactile and sensory experience with paper, books, records, cassettes and magazines has intimacy and aliveness in it that I so appreciate. The subject of the piece is one of the pioneers of modern dance, Martha Graham. Martha said: "the dance, like the spoken (written) drama, can explore the spiritual and emotional essence of human beings".



### About the Artist:

Tricia Opstad is a self-taught multimedia artist who grew up in North Dakota. Tricia makes drawings, paintings, dances, and performance. She accesses her skills and training as a dancer using embodiment practices in her visual work. She responds from sensation, emotion, movement, and desire in combination with crafted techniques in composition and style.

## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Tricia A Opstad

**Title** As I fall here a sky holds fields found

**Material** Acrylic on canvas with hand-built wood frame

**Value** \$2500

#### **Inspiration**

This painting is in response to the Missoula Public Library's biophilia design as a whole from the river bottom, to grassland, meadow, forest and sky. Biophilia is defined as a love of life and speaks to the deep knowing within our human nature that we are closely connected to nature itself; other life forms, plants and animals.



#### **About the Artist:**

Tricia Opstad is a self-taught multimedia artist who grew up in North Dakota. Tricia makes drawings, paintings, dances, and performance. She accesses her skills and training as a dancer using embodiment practices in her visual work. She responds from sensation, emotion, movement, and desire in combination with crafted techniques in composition and style.

# GLOW



## Open AIR Annual Fundraiser 2023

### # Sophia Hart

**Title** Snag and Driftwood  
(along Eastern Shore of  
Flathead Lake)

**Material** Gouache & 130lb  
Mixed Media Paper

**Value** \$300

**Inspiration**

This work was from my October 2022 residency with Open AIR. I was at Flathead Lake Biological Station, and was directly inspired and influenced by the landscape and the secluded world of the biological station. One of my goals while in residence was to capture as much of the biological station as I could with my paintbrush. This led to the combination of two of my favorite things, plein air painting and Inktober. "Plein air" is the French term for "painting from life" and is a practice that countless artists have taken on over centuries. It is one that truly helps you connect with the world, as the entire time you're spent completing a painting or a sketch, is spent on location with your subject. This also trains your observational skills and compositional skills. Inktober is a daily drawing challenge that was started in 2009, and encourages artists to practice drawing every day of the month of October. I started doing Inktober in various media in 2019, and when I realized that I would be at my residency during Inktober 2022, I decided it was the perfect time to do a daily plein air painting challenge. By the end of my residency, I had 31 completed plein air paintings of Flathead Lake Biological Station and the surrounding areas. "Snag and Driftwood" is one of those 31 pieces, and I am happy to have it included in Open AIR's 2023 auction!



**About the Artist:**

Sophia is a multi-faceted artist living in the Pacific Northwest. In her day job as an elementary after-school art teacher, she loves sharing her passion and excitement for art with the next generation of creatives, and often finds herself learning just as much from her students. She has an extensive background in art, including a Bachelor's Degree in Illustration, several artist residencies, mural projects, numerous gallery exhibitions, publications, and countless awards. Sophia has various favorite media to work in, but mostly gravitates toward any paint medium. She has a deep passion for learning, science, history, and conservation, and strives to bring awareness to our beautiful natural world through her artwork.

[sophiahart.com](http://sophiahart.com)