

CURRENT CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD OF MISSISSIPPI MEMBERS

- A -

Janet Akers

Bend, OR

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 1999

Mixed Media / Sculpture: Guild member since 2008

Janet's art work is primarily sculptural, in clay and mixed-media. She finds that working with a variety of materials provides a challenge for her and adds interest to the final piece. Besides clay, she has used metal, wood, handmade paper, fabric, stone, glass, concrete, and dried plant materials. The subject of her work varies according to what catches her fancy, but there are few themes that she returns to often. Much of it is inspired by nature, both plants and animals. Horses are a frequent subject. Other influences are architecture and women's issues. She is a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, the Louisiana Crafts Guild, the Vicksburg Art Association, and the Mississippi State Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Kent Allen

Enterprise, MS

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 1989

Kent works primarily with mid-range stoneware clay- wheel thrown, altered and hand-build additions to the basic vessel form. He uses glazes, vitreous slips, and non-fired pigments. His inspirations come from contemporary, old, and primitive art which put a spiritual aspect to his work. As far back as he can remember, he has painted, drawn, or sculpted. When he was about five, he scooped fresh cement from a road patch and quickly formed a human head. Since that time, he has gone through periods of intense work and periods of virtual hibernation. A former mental health professional and college art teacher, Kent now has more time to spend in his studio.

Winki Allen

Enterprise, MS

Fiber / Surface Design/Wearable Art: Guild member since 2012

Fiber / Weaving: Guild member since 1979

Winki not only enjoys weaving her beautiful creations, but also teaching others the craft. Since 1978, she has been instructing others in arts and crafts classes for the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, Meridian Community College, and East Mississippi State Hospital. She also spent one summer at Camp Meridale, instructing Girl Scouts in nature weaving, spinning, and natural dyeing. In addition to being an exhibiting member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, she is a member of the Handweavers' Guild of America.

Anderson Square Studio

Laurel, MS

Metal /Jewelry: Guild member since 2011
Clay /Jewelry: Guild member since 2007

Arceneaux Cabinet Makers

Covington, LA
Wood / Furniture: Guild member since 2004

Greg's furniture can be seen in the prestigious Cabildo Museum in New Orleans, in many plantations and in the offices and lobbies of Louisiana State University. He has been featured on the front cover of "Woodshop News," in "Better Homes and Gardens Wood Magazine," HGTV's "Modern Masters," the "Fine Woodworking" magazine, and the "Stepping Out" series of PBS, WYES, New Orleans. He has achieved many awards and for 23 years has served as donor and auctioneer of New Orleans' Traditional Jazz Show.

Lyn-Rae Ashley

Palos Verdes Estates, CA
Clay / Porcelain and Ceramics: Guild member since 2018

Annette Aucoin

Broussard, LA
Metal / Metal: Guild member since 1997

From 1989 to 1994, Annette was a printmaker and painter. When she discovered that she loved working the etched copper plate more than the prints, she returned to school to become a metal smith. Mother Nature's leaves are imitated in many of her silver fabricated jewelry pieces. Annette was selected to make the 2002 ornament for the White House Christmas Tree, and her painting, "Waiting" is in the University of Louisiana Permanent Collection.

- B -

Michael Bailey

Columbus, MS
Wood / Carved: Guild member since 2007

Michael grew up in Mississippi, spending time many summers watching his father work in his leather shop. When Michael received a woodcarving kit for Christmas in 2003, he immediately felt a connection to those days working with his grandfather, and a whole new world opened up before him. He began to consume every book he could find on the subject and taught himself the craft of woodcraft of woodcarving, using only hand tools. Michael draws his inspiration from many sources, including his upbringing in the rural south, Appalachian culture, and people he has met while riding his motorcycle or camping in the south.

Ann Baker

Jackson, MS
Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 1993

The emotions that shape Ann's pottery are influenced by the southwestern deserts and an appreciation of Asian art. The shapes she creates with clay are directly influenced by her experiences while living on a desert in southern Utah, where the earth shoots up into a very dramatic formation outlined by space. Her work includes both hand built and wheel thrown pieces made with stoneware clay fired to cone 10 reduction. She makes, cleans, fires, and glazes each piece with glazes she developed to compliment her designs and shapes. Her glaze pallet ranges from subtle grays and blues to black. Both the desert and love of Asian pottery inspires the clean lines, the emphasis of negative space, the shapes, designs, and all over feel and emotion of her pottery.

Kit Davis Barksdale

Bay St. Louis, MS

Glass / Beader/Beadmaker: Guild member since 1997

Mixed Media / Mixed Media: Guild member since 2015

One of the founding members for the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Kit Davis Barksdale graduated from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor of arts in education. She continued to create art from her personal studio in Jackson and build the Guild until 1993. Just two years after this, the Craftsmen Guild asked her to be its executive director. After having to rethink her plans to build a studio on the Coast after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Barksdale discovered Mustard Seed in Jackson, a center for developmentally challenged adults, where she became the executive director in 2006. Since then she has continued producing her bead work while also helping enrich the lives of those with disabilities through art at the Mustard Seed.

Linda Beasley

Utica, MS

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2018

Andi Sherrill Bedsworth

Oxford, MS

Mixed Media / Mixed Media: Guild member since 2015

Andi Sherrill Bedsworth is a mixed media collage artist who is also a member of the Oxford Artist's Guild and Bozarts Alliance as well as the owner of Art to Go, LLC. She uses her local Oxford business to bring arts education and instruction to children and adults of all ages all over the Lafayette County area. When she's not running her business, Bedsworth produces fine mixed media crafts using an assortment of different items such as paper, canvas, oil paints, acrylics, pastels, inks, and recycled items. In her own words, "almost anything I can put on the substrate" is what you can find on her magnificent art pieces.

Stacy McInnis Blalock

Marion, MS

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2014

With a Ph.D. in audiology and a job at a busy ENT clinic, you would wonder how Stacy McInnis-Blalock ever finds the time to make her one of a kind ceramics; however, she always

finds a way to nurse her love affair with clay that started over fifteen years ago. Always a lover of art, she was thrilled with what the medium of clay had to offer and has always found new ways to work with her medium to produce something unique and beautiful. She is always exploring and trying out different techniques both on the wheel and during the firing process to help meet her creative vision for what the lump of clay before her can be changed to. This exploration is what keeps the process fun and calls her back to the wheel again and again.

Rhonda Blasingame

Jackson, MS

Fiber / Quilts: Guild member since 2007

Although Rhonda's work utilizes traditional quilting skills, her quilts are nothing like the ones she made with her grandmother. Contrast, color, design, and subject are all used to create an overall 'feel' to each piece. You may see burlap or velvet with the traditional cotton, and embellishments like beading, found objects, or fibers are all used to enhance the design and add another layer of movement and texture. All her work incorporates her deep love for the South and the 'pass-along' tradition of quilting.

Julie Boudreaux

Diamondhead, MS

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 2014

Julie began creating jewelry over ten years ago, initially starting out with beading, but rapidly expanding her interests to include other creative techniques. Her current work includes the use of Precious Metal Clay, wire, sheet metals, and glass, often combining the different media into a single piece. Much of her education in her craft has been done through the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts and Rio Grande, where she participated in classes in wire wrapping, silver smithing, PMC, and lamp work glass. She has participated in many Arts Alive events and has had her work displayed at the Waveland City Hall gallery. She is also a promoter of her craft through her classes in fusing, wire work, and specialized beading techniques.

Lisa F. Bouvette

Gulfport, MS

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2002

Living on the Gulf Coast, Lisa is inspired by the marches, bayous, and animal life of the area. At southwest Louisiana University and William Carey University, she studied ceramics, fine art, and art history. Her work includes wheel thrown pieces and small animal sculptures fired to cone 6 in an oxidation atmosphere. Her wheel thrown pieces are most often carved for an aged effect. She wax resists the pieces, then adds layers of slip and glazes to achieve a rich and unique surface. This process gives her glazes a muted, satiny watercolor quality.

Rosalind "Rocky" Broome

Baton Rouge, LA

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 1997

Using nature as her inspiration, Rocky's objective is to create watercolor, expressionistic like paintings that evoke a feeling of joy and beauty. All of her glazes are lead free and the ware is safe for the microwave, oven, and dishwasher. Function is an important consideration, as is beauty. He encourages you to use the pots daily. The one of a kind pieces consist mainly of unique plates and vessels; some are painted using the production patterns and others are black and white silhouettes of loosely drawn dancers that communicate celebration. Rocky holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Louisiana State University. His concentration was in ceramics and, like most potters, once she touched clay he was hooked. Since then, she has been involved in making and teaching art.

Denise Brown

New Albany, MS

Fiber / Spinning: Guild member since 1996

The rhythm of the spinning wheel and the development of a growing yarn provide Denise with endless hours of meditation, conversation, learning, and a connection to an ancient craft. Working with fiber gives her wonderful opportunities to teach about ancient culture, history, farming, care of animals, as well as the environment. She finds that the act of spinning, whether by wheel or spindle, provides a communication channel between past and present, moderating the complexities of a technological age with the simplicity of an earlier era. Working with the fiber eases the frustrations and distractions of day-to-day stresses and the results in a product that reflects the best nature offers.

Earl Brown

Brandon, MS

Wood / Carved: Guild member since 2017

Mark Brown

Ellisville, MS

Mixed Media / Sculpture: Guild member since 2015

Phillip Brown

Brandon MS Wood

Categories: Home accessories

Anne Brunson Studio

Canton, MS Metal

Categories: Jewelry

Allison Bullock

Jackson MS Metal Ceramics

Categories: Clay

Stephen Bullock

Brandon, MS

Wood / Furniture: Guild member since 2013

Raised in Jackson, Stephen has no formal art education other than public high school art classes. Drawing on his love for the outdoors, gardening, and wildlife, he tries to incorporate them into his pieces as much as possible. It's no surprise that often one can find images of birds or trees in his marvelous wood carvings. All of his pieces are made from stained cedar, which allows him to control the different colors using various stains. This particular wood also makes his pieces ideal for covered patio settings and interior design. When asked why he likes to work with wood, his response was, "It's different, and it stands out. The grain of each piece is unique, and it's actually more of a work of art than I do with the wood."

Will Burgess

Jackson, MS

Wood

Functional Art

Guild member since 2021

Conner Burns

Natchez, MS

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2000

Connor was exposed to a variety of visual and performing arts during his childhood. His home was filled with art, especially the handmade pottery his father made. After a number of years of fitting clay around his job in the health and wellness field, Connor took a year off and spent the time working with clay. One year turned into two as Conner spent the time as the Artist-in-residence at Steven Hill's Red Star studios in Kansas City, after which he returned home and started his own studio. Rich subtleties and organic influences are important in his work. Conner's intention is for his work to look as if it grew that way, rather than being made. Both visual and tactile are components that used to encourage the user to take a closer look- to reach out and touch.

Rebecca "Becky" Burt

Hammond, LA

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 2010

Becky likes to think of herself as a finder of things that people do not know they need yet. She is a classically trained jewelry and mixed media artist who takes odd bits and pieces of metal, household ephemera, and the occasional bizarre cast off, and combines them to create art that sends a message. She teaches jewelry making at The New Orleans School of Art and Craft. She has displayed her work at Jazz Fest, various galleries, art markets, and art festivals in several Southern states. Becky was named by New Orleans Magazine as one of their 2013 People to Watch.

Stephanie Busbea

Jackson, MS

Glass: Fused

Guild member since 2021

Judy Busby and Emily Wolfe Jems Luxe Fibers

Vicksburg, MS

Fiber: Yarn

Guild member since 2019

- C -

Ben Caldwell

Nashville, TN

Metal (Cooper) / Utensils: Guild member since 2008

Ben is not only an award-winning copper artist; he also works with silver, makes guitars, and builds custom West African drums. He was named Emerging Artist of the year in 2002 by the Tennessee Artist's Guild, and has been featured in numerous magazine and newspaper articles. His work was shown twice on the "Tennessee Crossroads" television shows, and twice on Nashville Television stations. His copper sculptures have been shown at Vanderbilt Hospital, and the Tennessee State Museum where it won "Best of Tennessee Craft" in 2001. A silver gingko leaf ladle was acquired for the museum's permanent collection.

Todd Carr

Decatur, MS

Wood / Turned: Guild member since 2010

Todd began at an early age, watching his grandfather work with wood. During a visit to the Biltmore Museum as a child, he was fascinated with the craftsmanship of the woodwork. He is drawn to natural colors, textures, and grain patterns of wood. Each piece tells a unique story as it is shaped, turned, or formed into a beautiful work of art. Todd prefers to work with wood from trees that have been blown over in storms or to be removed for safety reasons. He takes the wood from the end of its life to a new life bringing joy to those who appreciate God's beauty.

Susan Carruth

Covington, LA

Metal (Silver) / Jewelry: Guild member since 1988

Susan was recently commissioned to create a special piece of jewelry as a gift for Barbara Bush. Her jewelry designs are imaginative commentaries on nature and life's experiences. She draws on her childhood experiences of growing up in New Orleans, as well as the highs and lows of being a responsible adult and parent. Susan's work shows the variety of working with metal. Some of her jewelry designs are loosely structured with lots of moving parts, other designs are highly structured and technically very demanding to create. Susan says that the freedom to move among these different approaches brings the balance she is seeking in her creative life.

Gina Castle

Slidell, LA

Fiber / Fiber: Guild member since 1993

Gina finds real excitement in batik with the magic of color. Batik, the Traditional process is the separating of color with wax to resist the over dye of the next color. When a new color is introduced to a piece of silk, the entire feel of the design changes. Some of the works change eight to twelve times before the work is deemed complete. Gina does a lot of custom work for interior decorators and specialty shops. The thrill for her is in seeing the finished work mounted and hanging in lobbies of condo complexes, offices, and restaurants.

Roy Chaisson

Madison, MS

Wood

Categories: Home accessories

Freda Clark-Brent

Jackson, MS

Clay
Categories: Pottery

Katie Clark

Madison, MS

Fiber / Crochet Accessories: Guild member since 2013

Like so many before her, Katie learned to crochet from her mother. She learned the basics stitches, then continued to learn from books, diagrams, and experimentation, with a deep appreciation for the rich tradition in crochet. Katie is inspired by the variety of techniques crochet offers with the simplicity of only a few stitches, and she continues to be inspired to try something new with every book she picks up. With new discoveries come more ideas about how to fuse them with other techniques. Katie strives pass the appreciation for tradition and the innovative possibilities of crochet on to other people in hopes that they will recognize the artistic value of crochet, from the choice of pattern- traditional or inventive- to the choice of colors and fiber textures.

Sam Clark

Madison, MS

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2002

Sam's designs come from his own active imagination mixed with year of drawing classes that focused on the figure and gesture. For Sam, there is a connection between the between the observer and the work of art. Making a figure or creature of unknown origin appear to have life the second you glance at it and away is what he wants to achieve. His sculpture requires an audience with an energy, for "only in their imagination will the clay take breath. For me this connection is as important as the piece of work."

Susan Clark

Louisville, MS

Clay / Sculpture: Guild member since 1988

Susan's work has been called humor in clay. She sculpts miniatures based on Southern people, places, and events, often taking her inspiration from the literature and photography of Eudora Welty. One of Mississippi's most well-known and admired artists, Susan creates works of art that reflect life as she sees it around her. She describes her work as seeing humor in life and putting it in clay, just inspiration and ideas... everyday, real life situations and circumstances. Her sculptures are painstakingly created and, although small, they are so realistic that you can almost recognize some of them as people you know in places where you have been.

Michelle Cleveland

Jackson, MS

Paper / Sculpture: Guild member since 2011

Michelle's art incorporates upcycled and repurposed items as well as fibers such as kudzu, bamboo, thistle, and coconut collected from nature. Whether foraging for natural plant fiber or hunting for unconventional items to repurpose, she enjoys every step of the process of converting raw materials to finished art. Her lamps, paper sculpture, and paper paintings are influenced by organic, contemporary, and steampunk styles.

Carolina Skye Cole

Ridgeland, MS

Fiber

Macrame'

Guild member since 2019

Karl Compton

Collinsville, MS

Pottery

Functional Art

Guild member since 2021

Cosmic Clay

Dowelltown, TN

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2008

With over 30 years as professional ceramic artists, Louis and Christine have enjoyed the experience of many clay, glaze, and firing techniques- from high-fire functional stoneware to low-fire decorative Raku, with which they have had national recognition. They particularly enjoy the challenge of testing the sensitive physical limits of clay, by building precarious shapes and forms into stimulating sound constructions. They strive to incorporate into all their works subconscious themes of mystical imagery, curious symbols, and lyrical patterns. Overall, it is their intent to stimulate the imaginations, evoke a mood of pleasure, for art in sharing the vision of the soul.

Donna Cowart Martin

Waveland, MS

Glass / Fused: Guild member since 2018

An environmentally rich eco-system such as the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its many estuaries and associated habitats form the basic inspiration of Donna's body of work. Her sights and experiences in daily life at the beach, near and in the water, and island life form indelible impressions that bring vivid imagery of colors, shapes, and forms. She describes her artwork in glass as a magical world that draws her in to its fluid colors and with its little light fractures as the light dances across the surface, glistening reflections in colors only envisioned before in her mind's eye. Using beautiful glass colors, enamels, frits, and various firing techniques becomes not only her artistic expression but opens a tiny glimpse into her soul.

Fletcher and Carol Cox

Tougaloo, MS

Wood / Furniture: Guild member since 1974

A founding member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Fletcher is the recipient of many awards, including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. He designed and built the desk in the lobby of the Craft Center. His woodworking creations can be found in homes, churches, offices, and museums throughout the country. Fletcher loves to work with local wood. At present, he is working with several pieces of red oak which came from author Eudora Welty's front yard. He was given the wood by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and when he is done, the proceeds will help fund the Eudora Welty Foundation.

Anita Craft**Kira Cummings**

Jackson, MS

Beadwork / Sculpture: Guild member since 2015

Wood / Pyrographs: Guild member since 2017

- D -

Ann Daniel

Clinton, MS

Paper / Sculpture: Guild member since 2003

Ann enjoys the tactile experience of creating artwork from handmade paper. She hopes to share her joy in the paper-making process with the onlooker and push the creative edge of what can be

made with paper. Ann's goal is to look at everyday items and see something that can be created into a piece of art. As her artwork has evolved, she finds herself drawn more to recycling or 'repurposing' old cloth. She says of her work, "Combining old and new in unexpected ways gives my work a sense of history and relevance to today's world."

Joe (Atley) Davis

Madison, MS

Wood / Kitchen Utensils: Guild member since 2017

After retiring from the corporate world, Joe Davis began woodworking as a hobby in 2010. He learned the craft through classes, the internet, and a lot of trial and error. Davis works with exotic woods from around the world to create a variety of pieces including cutting boards, charcuterie boards, and knife handles. He sells his work in various outlets throughout the state.

Kathryn Davis

Starkville, MS

Glass / Stained/Fused: Guild member since 2008

Owner of Alley Kat's Glass, Kathryn's honors and achievements are far too many for this short space. Among them are donating her time and space to restore a 48 sq. ft. church window, dating from 1885, installing the fused figures in the ceiling of MSU's Sanderson Center and being commissioned by McGraw Hill and National Geographic to make state flowers for the covers of social studies textbooks. She fashions her glass windows to be beautiful on both the inside and the outside, using a variety of materials and colors for her custom work.

Donna Davis Studio

Orange Beach, AL

Glass / Fused: Guild member since 2010

Harry Day

Canton, MS

Metal / Metal: Guild member since 2006

After years of painting oils and acrylic as a serious trade, Harry started making metal sculptures when he moved back to Jackson from living on the east and west coasts. He is a naturalist, who loves trees, rivers, contours, and contours of land. He drives all over Mississippi to barns and farms and dilapidated structures, to common dump sites and roadsides to find the materials for his sculptures. He looks at metal pieces lying on the ground and sees animal replicas or other items that can be put together. He enjoys making these creations. Harry has sold hundreds of paintings and many metal pieces.

DCZ Designs

Madison, MS

Jewelry / Jewelry: Guild member since 2011

Marek Dlouhy is a former professional ballet dancer who started his DCZ Designs business in wire sculpture jewelry and hand beaded jewelry in 2005. The DCZ jewelry contains components reflecting the artists' 'euro-Americana' origins; using hand-blown glass, crystals, woods, stones, and various metals. In addition to jewelry making, Marek does wood wire sculpture and photography, Shelagh paints and does interior/exterior design.

Jayne De Marçay

Abita Springs, LA

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 1987

Shirley De'Vard

Baton Rouge, LA

Glass / Jewelry: Guild member since 2007

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 2016

Hailing from Baton Rouge, Shirley De'Vard first began jewelry making as a hobby, but it quickly grew into a passion. Now her jewelry has taken her all around the South and Southeast and even got her invited to a Christmas festival in France. Her beaded and wire-wrapped jewelry often incorporates semiprecious stones, crystals, or pearls, all hand selected to ensure that they give off the shine and color she desires. She'll often combine gemstones, pearls, and beads to give her work a unique and special character to each individual piece of art. Many adore her necklaces for their ability to make a statement yet still be lady-like.

Barbara Dearman

Jackson, MS

Beads / Beadwork: Guild member since 2003

Fiber / Knitting: Guild member since 2010

The multi-talented Barbara spent many years in the retail area as owner of Celita's Yarn Shop and currently spends countless hours as a teacher of knitting, crochet, and all types of needlework. She also excels in beaded knitting, which led her to the art of beaded jewelry. Most of her jewelry is geometric in design, drawing from her experience in canvas embroidery. All of her pieces, whether jewelry or fiber, are one-of-a-kind.

Debie Deaton

Debby DeLashmet

Jackson, MS

Glass / Glass: Guild member since 2006

Glass / Fused: Guild member since 2016

Kyle DeLong

Brandon MS Metal

Categories: Sculpture

Marilyn Diehl Basket Cottage

Mt. Olive, MS
Fiber: Baskets
Guild member since 2008

Marilyn learned how to make baskets from her nephew, Roger. In 2002, she bought and moved his basket shop to its current location in Mt. Olive, Mississippi. Her baskets are made from natural rattan reed and the handles are made from hickory. She uses natural products such as pecan and black walnut shells for her dyes. Her baskets have been featured in Southern Living, Our South magazine, and Oak Street magazine. Marilyn has baskets to people from all over the world- including Italy and Germany.

David Dill
Madison MS
Wood
Categories: Furniture

Jill Douglas
Biloxi, MS
Beadwork: Jewelry
Guild member since 2022

Lisa Duck
Centreville, MS
Jewelry: Mixed Metals
Guild member since 2022

Lisa Dunn
Pelahatchie, MS
Fiber / Needlework: Guild member since 2017

- E -

Nancy Eaves
Metairie, LA
Mixed Media / Jewelry: Guild member since 2016

Joseph Eckles
Hernando, MS
Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 2002

Joseph believes in the importance of combining beauty and purpose. In all of his functional pottery, he tries to create a design that is both visually appealing and able to stand up to daily use. Many of his designs are influenced by places where he has lived, especially Japan. All of his pottery is produced in the traditional way of wheel thrown, slab or hand formed materials. He uses some custom tools that he has made, and he custom blends all his glazes from raw materials. He is always experimenting with new glazes, glaze washes and slips.

Lindsey Joy Ellis

Willis Bradley "Jake" Evans, Jr.

Herbert, LA

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 2016

- F -

Jamie Faulkner

Brandon, MS

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 2017

Robert Faulkner

Aberdeen, MS

Wood / Furniture and Rings: Guild member since 2008

Rob has been a professional and dedicated craftsman in wood for over 30 years. He believes in simplicity in design and in construction, in using simple lines, and in using traditional proportions which builders have used for centuries to create structures of endearing style. Rob adapts designs from pictures or photographs of a piece that he finds visually appealing. "I often see a particular leg shape, a curve to an edge, or some other shape that I will try to incorporate into a design." Even though he has worked with some very expensive, exotic species of wood, such as the Purple Heart, he always returns to woods that are native to Mississippi, those that he sees daily as he walks through the country. He especially likes to make pieces using wood taken from family property, knowing that it will be passed down through future generations.

Susan Fincher

Pensacola, FL (office only)

Metal / Jewelry: Guild member since 2013

Mixed Media / Jewelry: Guild member since 2017

Susan's work is eclectic and includes many styles. She enjoys the freedom to try new methods, materials, and styles. Susan believes that her work is different from that of others because she doesn't have a favorite metal or a preference between traditional metalsmithing and metal clay work. In fact, she enjoys combining those materials and methods – even with a single piece of jewelry. Her primary influence is nature, and she tries to use more environmentally friendly methods and products in her work, with leaves and shell motifs making regular appearances.

Kent Follette

Gonzales, LA

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 1985

Kent and his later to be wife, Libby, met a long, long time ago in art school. When asked about their lifetimes as artists, they replied, "We started our 'Big Adventures Program' of love, kids, and making art, and we are still at it to this day. We work on love continuously, family, spoiling the grandchild, and the art just about 24/7. We grew up in homes where life revolved around the

kitchen and the dinner table. Food, family, and friends were our main sustenance, so it was only natural that our pottery became an extension of our love of cooking and family celebration.”

Dr. Ed Ford

Madison, MS

Wood / Pyrography: Guild member since 2016

Ed Ford received his bachelor’s degree in art in 1984, his masters in art history in 1988, and his doctorate in art history in 2002. In addition to his academic career, he has thirty years of experience as a commercial artist. He specializes in illustration, graphic design, and animation, which he currently teaches along with art history. Lately he has added wood carving and pyrography to his skill set. His ventures with pyrography began in 2015 with his discovery that wood burners can have heat control. This allows him to draw with a wide range of tones, so wood burnings could be like drawings in pencil or charcoal. He found that the medium could express in ways different from any other he had used. He also feels that, compared to other materials, there appears to be something more profound and timeless about an image burned into wood.

Judy Foster

Madison, MS

Fiber / Weaving: Guild member since 1983

Judy is a winner of the Handweavers Guild of America state Judge’s Award, the Cotton Clouds 100% Cotton Award, and the Silver Shuttle Award of Merit. All of the steps in the process of creating her handwoven evening jackets and other articles are done by Judy, prototype design work, yard selection, warping and dressing the loom, weaving the cloth, finishing the cloth, construction and finishing the jackets. Her works can be seen in several churches in the Jackson area and in private collections in more than a dozen states.

Susan Freeman

Birmingham, AL

Clay / Ceramics: Guild member since 1989

Susan has been making wheel thrown utilitarian pottery for over 30 years. Her work is light due to its tin walled construction. All surface decoration is hand applied after the thrown pot is dried to a leather hard stage. Susan has exhibited in fairs and festivals throughout the Southeast and Northeast, garnering several hundred awards, numerous Best of Show, purchases and the coveted Lathe Design Award. Her work can be found in private collections around the world.

R. P. Funderburk

Olive Branch, MS

Wood / Birdhouses: Guild member since 2007

R.P.'s background as a carpenter enables him to use the tricks of the trade to ensure each of his birdhouses is well built to last for years. He uses old wood from buildings that have been razed, with new pieces of hickory, walnut, persimmon, cedar, and cherry from a local sawmill. He collects interesting twigs, mosses, and vines and saves pieces of barbed wire, wasps' nests, pieces of old roofing tin, and antique square nails he finds while doing repair work. He adds the moss and twigs to make the houses more attractive to birds. Each birdhouse is made for specific species of bird which is native to Mississippi. To do this, he researches styles of birdhouses, then he puts them out in his yard and let the birds show him which model they prefer.

- G -

Thomas "Tag" Gamblin

Madison, MS

Fiber

Caning

Guild member since 2008

Tag learned caning as a continuation of his hobby of doing minor woodwork and furniture repair. He taught himself through consultation with local craftsmen, reading, studying, using audio-visual aids, and trial and error learning techniques. He finds satisfaction in having developed a hobby/craft which is in demand and is useful to people who need these types of repairs and replacements. He also likes to help other individuals who want to learn the various techniques of caning. He takes great pleasure in a successfully completed project. In his spare time, Tag also volunteers here at the Craft Center to greet our visitors from other states and countries and help them enjoy their induction to Mississippi craftsmen.

Mary Caroline Garland

Bay St. Louis, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2019

Kimberly Gartrell

Madison, MS

Glass

Mosaics

Guild member since 2015

Joe Gilbert

Madison, MS

Stone

Knives, Arrowheads

Guild member since 2007

Flintknapping - the making of arrowheads, blades, and knives- is considered by many a lost art. Ever since Joe was a young boy, he has had strong interest in primitive mankind, Native American history, and stone tool technology. Joe is a self-taught flint napper. His tool kit

consists of primarily of a variety of copper pressure flakers. The natural materials he uses to produce these tools consists of flints, Cherts, Jasper, Obsidian, Novaculite, Dacite, and Agate. The modern materials are fused glass, melted glass bottles, fiber optic glass, and sheet glass. There is an endless variety of colors, styles, and different types of stone and glass tools that he is able to create in this lost art.

Marva Lee Goodman

Brandon, MS
Fiber: Spinning, Knitting, Sewing
Guild member since 1996

Marva's unique creations have been shown at the Municipal Art Gallery and the Nunnery Galleries in Jackson, Art Works in Laurel, the Attic Gallery in Vicksburg, the Senatobia Art Gallery, the Corinth Art Gallery, and the Handweavers Guild of America Convergence in Atlanta. Marva also teaches classes in spinning and knitting for the Craftsmen Guild and for local schools and organizations.

Sarah Govero

Clinton, MS
Fiber
Biographical Info
Member since 2023

Sarah began crocheting at the age of 10. Having so many nieces and nephews led her to her current interest in crocheting baby items. Because of this, she has become more skilled and advanced over the years. Sarah's main focus of crochet is towards things that can be worn such as scarves or hats but also, she loves making plushie animals such as narwhals or cows.
Categories: Crochet, Knitting

Ray Gregory

Clinton, MS
Clay
Pottery
Guild member since 2018

Aaron Griggs

Houlka, MS
Wood
Baskets
Guild member since 2011

Making the first trip to Montana View, Arkansas in September 2010 with his wife Patsy, Aaron met a person by the name of Leon Jennings. Leon was about 90 years old at that time. He found him on the "Off The Beaten Path" tour of craftsmen and artisans. Aaron became interested at that time in White Oak Basket Making because Leon made baskets in the traditional way. Aaron makes his baskets in the traditional way. He selects the right tree, then spits it with wedges and a

froe, shaves it down to billets with a draw-knife, then splits it down the grain in weavers, ribs, and handles depending on the type and size of basket to be woven. There are many basket weavers but only a handful of true traditional White Oak Basket Makers in the state of Mississippi and he is proud to be one of them.

Elizabeth Grossman

Gulfport, MS

Metal/Clay

Jewelry

Guild member since 2019

- H -

John Haltom

Oxford, MS

Mixed Media

Native American Arts

Guild member since 2002

John has been handcrafting Native American bows and arrows since he was 12 years old. He started out using branches, but because they didn't last long, he now cuts staves from the trunks of trees, including the strong Osage orange, elm, hickory, ash, black locust, and black cherry. He uses very limited hand tools and no machines or electric saws, John's bows can be five-foot long Cherokee bows from the Woodlands, or shorter bows from the Plains. After he finishes the extracting process of cutting and stringing each bow, he decorates them with feathers, beads, paint, and leather or fur. His arrows are handmade, the shafts cut from dogwood, privet, willow, black cherry, or cane. The shafts are bundles in groups of a dozen, put up to dry for up to a year before they are finished and furnished with arrowheads.

Emily Hamblin

Raymond, MS

Printmaking

Printmaking

Guild member since 2019

Greg Harkins

Canton, MS

Wood

Chairs

Guild member since 1979

Greg is world renown for his craft. His creations are in more than 20 countries and in the homes of famous people such as former presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ronald Reagan, and Jimmy Carter; Paul Harvey, Bob Hope, George Burns, Pope John Paul II, John Glenn, and many others. His "Plantation Rocker" was presented to all the Southern governors at their conference in 1990. Greg is preserving a virtually dead craft by hand turning parts and using techniques to

make extremely durable and fine quality chairs. Each piece is dated and hand signed by Greg and guaranteed for life. Greg hand picks each tree for chair parts. Each chair takes approximately 25 hours to make. His work has been featured in more than 25 magazine articles and four TV documentaries.

Debra Hayes

Union, MS

Mixed Media

Jewelry

Guild member since 2011

Debra Hayes has been creative as long as she can remember. Even at a very early age, she would sit with needle and thread making little dolls from her mother's left over quilt scraps. She remembers using things like pipe cleaners for hair, thinking always of how to use what she had to make what she wanted. Finally, in the 7th grade, she was able to home economics where she learned to design and make her own clothing, skills that she now puts to use every day. In every creative endeavor she has tried, she has always striven to do it her own way. Usually, nothing is off-limits when it comes to what may be incorporated into a piece. She enjoys challenging herself with taking the ordinary or discarded and turning it into a beautiful piece of art.

Michael Hayman

Mandeville, LA

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2001

Michael's work is inspired by the myths and legends of Celtic and Scandinavian Europe. A preservationist, he works with many of the tools, materials, and techniques available to medieval smiths, without resorting to photo-etching or computer aids. He has visited museums of Scotland and England for historical research. Much of his work is done in lost wax casting. He hammers out his work using a piece of railroad track for an anvil.

Hayne Studio

Madison, MS

Fiber

Knitting/Crochet

Guild member since 2016

Carolyn Heathcock

Flora, MS

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2016

Brandi Henderson

Brandon, MS

Fiber
Sewing
Guild member since 2018

Patti Henson

Jackson, MS
Fiber
Fabric Design
Guild member since 1976

Patti is both a graphic artist and a fiber artist. She wrote and illustrated a children's book, "My Friend, the Forester," for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. She has designed the covers of more than a dozen books published by the University Press of Mississippi and illustrated several others. She has won several major awards, including the Crystal Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators. Her work has been featured in several publications. She teaches classes for the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and the Mississippi Museum of Art. She has been craftsman-in-residence at the Mississippi Craft, artist-in-residence at Paul Johnson State Park in Hattiesburg and Roosevelt State Park in Morton.

Emilie Herbert

Madison, MS
Glass
Beads
Guild member since 2021

Jack Herring

Sanford, NC
Wood
Bowls
Guild member since 1990

Loretta Hettler

Tupelo, MS
Metal
Jewelry
Guild member since 2016

Brian Hill

Brandon MS
Wood
Biographical Info
Member since 2023

Brian's woodturning roots go back to his upbringing in rural Hinds County Mississippi. Growing up, everything that was needed was built. Brian's first experience with the wood lathe was with his uncle. One of his fondest memories was making a wooden goblet from a piece of pine and working on the lathe. Understanding the importance of mentors and

teachers, Brian joined the local wood turning club, Magnolia Woodturners. This decision has proved to be instrumental in his growth as an artist. Brian's woodturning style leans towards rustic functional pieces.

Lil McKinnion-Hicks

New Orleans, LA

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2006

When asked about her work, Lil says "While every piece is different, they all have one thing in common: whether you choose to wear them for a single season or several generations, they're to be worn, lived in, and delighted every time you put them on." Lil has studied both gold-smithing and silver-smithing at several prestigious schools and with renowned artists. Her work is currently shown in galleries in Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Rebekah Hixon

Madison MS

Mixed Media

Member since 2023

Rebekah has been painting pottery for over ten years, but always wanted to make her own. Her grandmother was an artist and the way she painted on canvas amazed her. Rebekah uses a special concrete and cement blend along with different textiles and fabrics in her process to mold each item. Her inspiration is constant and in everything she sees. Rebekah believes in re-using items to them into something magical.

Holly Holton

Canton, MS

Metal

Member since 2023

Holly has had an obsession with beautiful, unusual rocks for most of her life. After attending the Mississippi Gem and Mineral show in Jackson as a middle school student, she developed a love for stones. She now is the Educational Chair of the club. Holly teaches at least 2 classes a month for the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. Her biggest influencers are her parents and daughters. Holly says that the stones she chooses let her know what they want to be dressed in and that is how she is influenced to design.

Joseph A. Horn

Terry, MS

Wood

Carved

Guild member since 2006

Bobby L. Howard

Brandon, MS
Metal
Knives
Guild member since 1996

Bobby's work is based on traditional knives, made by knife-makers and blacksmiths, when knives were essential tools used in everyday living. His designs are his interpretation of how a knife should look, feel, and perform. He adds folk art features to some knives to make them special one of a kind. The blades are hand forged from round or flat bar stock high carbon steel. The heat source for forging is a gas or coal forge. The blades are forged on old anvils used by blacksmiths of a time gone. His welded Damascus steel knives are made by forge welding different types of steel together to develop steel with contrasting patterns as the layers are ground through. The Damascus steel blade is etched in acid to reveal the contrasting layers of steel.

Ruker Howell

Purvis, MS
Clay
Functional Stoneware
Guild member since 2021

Carolyn Hudson

Madison, MS
Fiber
Quilts
Guild member since 2011

Carolyn's interest in the fiber arts extends back to when she was very young, but it wasn't until after becoming a nurse in her young adult life that she began to dabble with quilting. Through trial and error, she began to learn how to produce wonderful quilts. Then, in the 70's and 80's, quilting fell off due to the era of convenience mindset that began to build; however, as most things seem to do, authentic quilting made a comeback, and Carolyn got serious about her craft. Then the Highland Quilt Guild formed, allowing many quilters to get together on a regular basis and encourage each other and to share ideas. Since then, Carolyn has gone on to have a very successful career in the quilting world, winning many awards at shows in Canada and the United States.

Tom Hughes

Natchez, MS
Clay
Ceramics
Guild member since 1995

Since becoming a Christian in 1975, Tom has had a special interest in crosses. Tom moved to Natchez in 1980, and a few years later he began making crosses from the square nails that were used in building houses prior to the Civil War. These nail crosses are worn in many states and countries. Crosses have been provided for churches to use in their processions and other similar

usage. Tom also makes stoneware pottery. When he is firing or waiting on pots to dry, he makes crosses. As a mostly self-taught craftsman, Tom enjoys being a member because the Guild has not only provided an additional market for his work but has given him the opportunity to know really great people who have influenced him as a craftsman and as a person.

Joe Hunt

Brandon, MS

Wood

Carved

Guild member since 2006

Having spent most of his adult life in the military and later in the business world, Joe had little time to spare to any craft. He had always, however, admired, and envied, the work of wood carving artisans. Now retired, he continues to have a strong drive in catch up in this endeavor, and his carving interests remain both realistic and voracious. He is influenced by work in both the realistic and caricature genres. Joe is motivated and inspired in both areas by his interests in history, nature and sports. During my tenure as president of the Pearl River Woodcarvers Guild, he was instrumental in developing a walking cane project for Mississippi Disabled Veterans, which carved and awarded 276 patriotically themed canes over a two year period.

Jennifer Hyatt

Memphis, TN

Metal

Sculpture

Guild member since 2005

Storytelling is one of the most important keys to Jennifer's metal designs. Much of her art falls under the category of faces, figures, and scenes. Each of these pieces holds a story. Toys, folk tales, playing cards, and a childhood memory of surrealist paintings play an important part in her art images. Scenes from the theater, film, and details from religious icons inspire her window pieces. Mardi Gras and Carnival led her to masks and faces. Any found piece of iron becomes a challenge, a puzzle in reverse. Jennifer finds the bits and pieces, and it's up to her to discover the art within them. Jennifer has a BA in Theater and Media Arts from Rhodes College. Her early love of theater led to costume design, which in turn brought her to jewelry and then to iron.

Jerry Hymel

Hammond, LA

Glass

Stained

Guild member since 1987

The Hymel's unique glass creations range from angels to kaleidoscopes and windows. Their glass ornaments have been on display on the White House Christmas tree. They have been featured in a touring exhibit throughout the Southeast and were selected for the cover of the Bell South phone book in 1993. Jerry has worked at the Mississippi Museum of Art on a community project funded by through the Ford Foundation. He also participated as artist-in-residence on a

project with students from St. Richard's school in Jackson to create a 12 foot diameter mosaic. It can be seen at the school campus.

- J -

Scott Jennings

Laurel, MS

Clay

Mixed Media

Guild member since 2013

Jana John

Louisville, KY

Clay

Ceramics

Guild member since 1995

A native of Oklahoma, Jana worked at newspapers in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi before moving to Louisville in 2000. In addition to being a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, she is a member of the Louisville Craftsmen's Guild and a juried participant in the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program. She hand-builds pottery, both decorative and functional, using terracotta clay. Clay masks are her specialty. Her signature pieces have a cat motif. She makes cat-shaped masks, platters, bowls, spoon-rests, and pins. The cat's preoccupation comes from her love of cats. Other masks belong to the "My Women" series. They're an exploration of the many paces and personalities of women.

Bessie Johnson

West Point, MS

Mixed Media

Sculpture

Guild member since 2016

Bessie's baskets have been praised for their remarkable symmetry, beauty, and innovative style. Her achievements as a craftsman and designer of basketry has brought her increasing distinction and prominence. For many years, Bessie has woven a rich heritage with a contemporary artistic vision to create her own unique art form using pine needles, gourds, corn shucks, china berries, and black walnuts. Her use of china berries gained national attention when she was asked to design and make the ornaments for the 1994 Mississippi Christmas tree in the circle of trees surrounding the taller United States tree displayed at the White House. Bessie considers her basketry to be artistic like her forefathers, as much as family's legacy as any genetic inheritance.

David James Johnson

Memphis, TN

Sculpture

Ceramics

Guild member since 2011

David creates sculptures, paintings, drawings, and music, but it is with pottery that his creativity really becomes mystical. He wants his work to appear as if it just arose from the depths of an ocean, fresh and vibrant, full of life. David keeps the George Ohr statement, “No two pieces alike,” with him as he tries to embrace the beauty of the individual piece. His credo is: “I am not a factory; I am a man.” He wants his truly unique pottery to be used and adored in the modern home.

Jim Johnson

Forest, MS

Wood

Member since 2023

Jim became involved with woodworking upon his retirement in 2014. Jim is self-taught and uses various woodworking machines and tools. His grandfather was a carpenter and cabinet maker who transformed wood into beautiful objects and influenced Jim from an early age. Another influencer of Jim’s was his father who also enjoyed woodworking. Jim uses the tools he inherited from both of them.

Mike Johnson

Walnut Grove, MS

Wood

Canes

Guild member since 2007

As a boy, Mike often sat watching, fascinated by his father and the men who would sit, talking and producing thin, curls of cedar from sticks they were carving. He carved occasionally in his early adult years, though his efforts were less than an attempt to be a serious carver, yet more than just ‘whittling.’ Then he started carving jewelry and figures from found wood and began to develop a self-taught style. He became interesting in carving hiking sticks when he saw some that his sister had carved and others at craft shows and museums. Now, through his carving techniques and ideas, he makes pieces that are ‘story sticks,’ because they have a story, song, or theme. He hopes that his pieces might pique the interest of children the way his was caught by the whittlers of his youth.

Juliet Johnston

Jackson, MS

Clay

Ceramics

Guild member since 2005

Shambe Jones

Jackson, MS

Wood

Surface Design

Guild member since 2009

Juli Juneau

New Orleans, LA

Glass

Blown

Guild member since 2018

Pat Juneau

Scott, LA

Metal

Sculpture

Guild member since 1985

Pat and Susanne were the first “out-of-state” members of the Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi, and they’re proud of that distinction. They are also proud of their work- big steel sculpture for Pat and jewelry for Susanne. Self-taught, Susanne uses silver, copper, and bronze, along with some enamel, to make her beautiful jewelry. Pat works with steel and paints steel to make his flowers, musicians, and whatever comes to his mind. They have both been practicing their craft for over 30 years. They have appeared in various publications.

Susan K. Jones

Holly Springs, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2005

- K -

Lynda Katz

Independence, LA

Clay

Ceramics

Guild member since 1985

Lynda works exclusively in porcelain, a high fire white vitreous clay body which requires great skill of the potter. In addition to her one-of-a-kind and commissioned pieces, her work included a line of functional pottery. She throws each piece individually by hand. Her work incorporates a broad range of influences from throughout the history of ceramics, especially the classic porcelains of the Chinese Song Dynasty. Each piece is designed and made with great care and is intended to be used as well as contemplated. Lynda has a M.A. Degree in ceramics, has held several teaching positions, and has been shown nationally in shops, galleries, and exhibitions. She has received numerous awards for her work.

Ken Kellum

Tupelo, MS

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2019

Laurie Key

Dothan, AL

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2014

Aaron King

Brandon, MS

Mixed Media

Home Décor

Guild member since 2016

Charles Lee King

Yazoo City, MS

Metal, Wood

Accessories

Guild member since 2011

What makes someone want to make a bowl of the ugliest material he can find? Chick does and he continually looks for that type of material. He loves to make something pretty and unusual out of something ugly and discarded. Chick has always liked sculptures, but all you can do with a sculpture is look at it. So, as he makes his bowls, little sculptures always in the back of his mind. His bowl sculptures can be used as utilitarian items around the house. He makes one of a kind bowls, letting the character in the wood define the item. Chick enjoys both metal and wood. He uses old wood with character and old rusty metal to give his bowls their unique look.

Alan Kolodny

Jackson, MS

Metal, Fiber

Jewelry

Guild member since 2010

As a child, Alan was taught to crochet and worked in the fine thread. He even helped put himself through college and seminary by making and selling crocheted angels and other ornaments. He got interested in the dying art of tatting and “took to it like a fish out of water.” He has won none blue ribbons at the Mississippi State Fair. In addition to his own work, Alan likes to participate via the internet with a larger community of people all over the world who are striving to preserve the art of tatting.

- L -

Doug Lamb

Sarah Langston

Ridgeland, MS
Beads
Beadwork
Guild member since 2014
Lynn Fraley Laughlin
Madison, MS
Mixed Medium
Jewelry
Guild member since 2013

Combining the elegance of the past with the beauty of everyday life, Lynn creates unique designs for lovers of nostalgia. Inspired by love of the past and her memories of a mother, who, as a child of the depression, taught her the value of conserving even the smallest things in life, Lynn spends much time scouring estate sales, garage sales, auctions, and flea markets for vintage finds. After acquiring both vintage salvage and heirloom pieces, she studies the uniqueness of each piece and how pieces complement one another to design a piece of jewelry that combines the beauty of the past and the present.

Laura Glen Lawson
Ruston, LA
Metal: Jewelry
Guild member since 2000

Laura Glen is a creative jewelry maker whose love of nature's graceful beauty is expressed through the art of sculpting various gauges of metals into unique pieces of jewelry. She uses gemstones and other objects to add color and create balance and harmony between metal and stone in a fluid, rhythmic, organic style. She travels a multi-state area participating in various shows and festivals and has won several awards. She has been interviewed by Louisiana Public Radio and has been featured in newspapers and magazines. A member of the Louisiana Craft Guild and the North Central Louisiana Arts Council, as well as the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Laura Glen resides in a log home in the pine hills of North Louisiana with her husband who is a wildlife artist.

Christina Lemon
Statesboro, GA
Metal
Mixed Media
Member since 2022

Christina's work features one-of-a-kind, limited edition and production series designs in sterling silver, copper, enamel, gemstones and pearl accents.
Categories: Jewelry

Thomas Lemons
Tupelo, MS
Metal

Member since 2022

Thomas has been crafting full time since 2014. His craft differs from typical custom light builders. The most important part of building custom lighting creations is capturing the history of the item. Thomas draws most of his inspiration from antique/vintage items. His shop has a large collection of vintage items some over 100 years old.

Tres (Edwin) Lennep

Ocean Springs, MS

Wood

Carved/Turned

Guild member since 2004

Tres's works include primarily birds and fish, but he also has a series of wooden Christmas ornaments that are hand-turned and original. Tres carved for pleasure for many years, then in 2001 he purchased a lathe and became hooked on wood turning. He joined the American Association of Woodturners, the Azalea Woodturners, and the Magnolia Woodturners. Tres has not had any formal instruction in woodturning, but has studied under a world class professional duck carver and has further developed his skills from books, videos, help from other club and guild members, and demonstrations from some renowned wood turners.

Lloyd Lewis

Laurel, MS

Wood

Toys

Guild member since 2013

Rose Ellen Lindsey

Brandon, MS

Pottery: Ceramics

Guild member since 2008

Rose Ellen Lindsey is employed full time with a telecommunications company in Jackson, but gets to build her pottery in the evenings and on weekends. With her husband, Ken, she has established the N_KREBEL Pottery Studio in Brandon. Rose Ellen uses nature themes in much of her pottery- sycamore leaves, nuts, sweet gum balls, even small 'critters.' She won a Blue Ribbon at the Tallahatchie Riverfest organization for placement in the New Albany Museum. Rose Ellen doesn't stick to one theme or type of design. "My inspirations seem to come from all my waking movements. Everyone and everything in life has the potential for my using it in my pottery."

Courtney Lipscomb

Florence MS

Wood

Member since 2023

Courtney fell in love with wood burning in 2019 at the Mississippi Art Education Association Fall Conference. The main influence that inspires Courtney isn't one particular artist but just the use of pen and ink as a drawing medium. Using a wood burning tool is very similar to using ink when you draw Courtney says. The focal point of most of Courtney's work comes from nature and animals that display various textures and patterns. Birds are her favorite because of the feather variations and color that can be brought out.

Categories: Burning

Linda J. Livaudais

Rossville, GA

Polymer Clay

Jewelry

Guild member since 2011

Theresa Livingston

Decatur, MS

Glass

Beads

Guild member since 2008

Tina Loft

Sammy Long

Brandon, MS

Wood

Turned

Guild member since 2007

Sammy Long is a native of Greenville, Mississippi. He has been turning for 20 years. Initially, Sammy was trained to use a metal lathe and worked in the ship building industry. He now uses these skills to create hand turned works from native and imported woods. Sammy has studied under Clay Foster, Todd Hoyer, Al Stirt, Grameme Priddle, John Jordan, and Lyle Jamieson. He is a member of the American Association of Woodturners, Magnolia Woodturners, and the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. His pieces include decorative and functional bows and hollow vessels. Many are embellished with piercing and carving. Sammy enjoys creating one-of-a-kind pieces by special order.

Blanca Love

Bay St. Louis, MS

Clay

Ceramics

Guild member since 2012

As a clay artist for over a decade, Blanca finds joy and freedom in working with clay. The possibilities are endless, from the colors to the structures. The amount of fine details that a piece can have only depends on the creator of the work. Every one of her pieces is created with love and as a tribute to nature's diversity and beauty. Nature has always been her source for my best

work. One of the reasons she enjoys working with clay is that clay and nature share so many qualities. Many of Blanca's latest pieces are sculptural yet functional pieces influenced by growing up on Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Blanca also enjoys participating at festivals and events and connecting with art lovers.

Amanda Lovitt-Call

Brooklyn, MS

Fiber

Weaving

Guild member since 1984

Amanda approaches her work with order, strength, and beauty in mind but most of all with a love for the complexities of the color itself, a devotion to the study of weave structures, and a desire to use the interplay of fiber, texture, and light. She especially likes to weave undulating surfaces which shimmer with reflective materials, creating illusions of light. She is fascinated with the elegance of textiles used in historic weaving and attempts to redefine them in her own work. She says this has been a gradual process of trying, learning, discarding, and accepting. She wants her weaving to be seen not as merely decorative, but suggestive of the venerable structures of ancient textiles.

David Lupton

Phil Campbell, AL

Wood

Turned

Guild member since 2000

Daniel's basic tools are the lathe, band saw, and chainsaw. He gets a sense of accomplishment from making a product that other people admire and enjoy. His search for the right trees or pieces of wood are like a treasure hunt. Three stages of the process that provide inspiration. 1) The first chainsaw cut along the grain of the log starts to reveal the beauty of the wood. Each log is different. 2) The clearer definition of the grain that becomes apparent with the final chisel cuts and sanding. 3) The final definition and highlighting of the grain that is revealed when the finish is applied.

- M -

Elaine Maisel

Ridgeland, MS

Feathers

Surface Design

Guild member since 2012

Elaine says she paints on feathers because she likes how the shape, size, and specific demands of feathers challenges her creatively, focusing her attention on detailed, mindful, miniature work. Like watercolor, there is little room for error. Once the brush touches the feather, it cannot be erased. The feathers she uses are responsibly sourced from small family farms, parrot owners, and local turkey hunters. Through her craft and work as a teaching artist for the Mississippi Arts

Commission, she enjoys being able to bring together the subjects of nature, conservation, the sciences, and art.

Linda Mann

Jackson, MS

Wood

Baskets

Guild member since 1978

Susan Marling

Donna Martin

Waveland, MS

Glass

Fused

Guild member since 2018

An environmentally rich eco-system such as the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its many estuaries and associated habitats form the basic inspiration of Donna's body of work. Her sights and experiences in daily life at the beach, near and in the water, and island life form indelible impressions that bring vivid imagery of colors, shapes, and forms. She describes her artwork in glass as a magical world that draws her in to its fluid colors and with its little light fractures as the light dances across the surface, glistening reflections in colors only envisioned before in her mind's eye. Using beautiful glass colors, enamels, frits, and various firing techniques becomes not only her artistic expression but opens a tiny glimpse into her soul.

Eryn McCarthy

Jackson, MS

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2019

Pottery is deeply integrated in Eryn's life. Handmade brings the soul back down to earth and to our ancestors in a way no other art form can. Eryn says that when she began learning ceramics, she had no intention other than to fill a time slot in her college freshman schedule, but she quickly fell in love with it. Eryn remembers sitting in her uncle's pottery studio, watching him work, and she credits him as being the greatest influence on her work. She is inspired by the earth around her, and she emulates natural textures and colors in her surface designs.

Joanne M. McMullen

Greenwell Springs, LA

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2008

Joanne has been designing and creating one-of-a-kind jewelry and accessories since 2000. She constructs unique works of wearable art and sculptured wire pieces using precious metals, freshwater pearls, Swarovski crystals, gemstones, and glass beads. She incorporates crocheting with wire, free-form wire working, and other beading techniques to fashion jewelry that will be treasured by the wearer as original and distinctly artistic pieces. Her work has been featured in magazines and in newspapers and exhibited at Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge, the LSU Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge, and the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln, Nebraska.

McConnell-Dickerson Art

Como, MS

Mixed Media

Sculpture

Guild member since 2019

Prudence McGehee

McComb, MS

Fiber

Member since 2023

Prudence studied weaving as a college student. Prudence was admitted into the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild in 1980 as a weaver. She has weavings in the permanent collections at St. Philip's Episcopal church in Jackson as well as the GSA Headquarters in Jackson. In about 2008, Prudence was taught basket weaving by Joe Bruneau from Pisgah, North Carolina. Prudence incorporates fabric and other materials into her baskets. The design and size of her baskets are determined by the unique qualities of the materials and the intended use.
Categories: Baskets

Moni McKee

Ridgeland, MS

Clay

Sculpture

Guild member since 1980

Moni has been making her hand-sculpted angels and bunnies for over 25 years. She made decorative and functional pottery for years, then started making angels at Christmas and bunnies at Easter. Now she also makes nativity scenes, mermaids, and birds. Her tools are simple by design. She enjoys the primitive nature of working with clay by hand and with small tools. She combines an unglazed look with paint, sometimes sequins, ribbons, and fabrics. Each one of her figures is unique.

Paul Meek

Morton, MS

Wood

Turkey Calls

Guild member since 2010

Now from award winning master call maker, Paul Meek, an innovator in the turkey making world for over 30 years, comes the Rock Pot. It's completely different in shape and materials. The striking surface is made of rock; the pot made of several types of exotic and domestic woods. Each pot has a striker producing the best turkey sounds for that call. Each one is numbered, dated, and signed by Paul and comes with a certificate of authenticity, describing the type of wood and rock used in the call. Truly a one-of-a-kind turkey call.

Becky Mercier

Madison, MS

Fiber

Knitting

Guild member since 2014

Kristie Metcalfe

Jackson, MS

Fiber

Crochet

Guild member since 2014

Maurice Milleur

Gulfport, MS

Metal (Pewter)

Jewelry

Guild member since 1987

Maurice, a master pewterer, is a native of Belgium who worked as a medical technologist before turning his pewter making hobby into a second career. He is self-taught and had no formal training in metal smithing before starting his own business, Pewter Graphic, and becoming one of the most well-known and respected pewter workers in the nation. Among his other projects and honors, Maurice produced the Ohr Private Collection, a line of pewter jewelry based on famed Gulf Coast potter George Ohr's pottery. The proceeds from the sale of this collection went to bring Ohr's pottery back into the Ohr Museum in Biloxi.

Janice Mitchell

Clarksdale MS

Fiber

Biographical Info

Member since 2023

Janice learned how to quilt by imitating the patterns she saw in books at the library and on public television programming. Her ability to make functional art that brings joy to others is her greatest motivation. Janice uses upcycled clothes, fabrics from discarded projects as well as a mix of traditional cottons and synthetic fibers.

Categories: Quilts

Walter Montambault

Jackson, MS

Glass, Mosaic

Guild member since 2013

Thomas Morrison

Jackson, MS

Clay

Pottery/Sculpture

Guild member since 2016

Jan L. Mrachek

Wabasha, MN

Beads

Jewelry

Guild member since 2004

Jane Mullins

Raymond, MS

Glass

Stained

Guild member since 1987

Jane is a long-standing member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi in the mediums of stained glass and felting. Jane enjoys her part in keeping alive these two ancient art forms. She employs the lead method and copper foiling to create works in glass, and in her wet felting and needle felting she uses wool and silk fibers to fashion designs. Keeping alive traditional craft forms while venturing into diverse and eclectic creations is what Jane most enjoys about her work. She hopes that discriminating seekers of art can capture the essence of fascination that she has for materials and can enjoy the magic she tried to capture in each show piece.

- N -

Brian Newman

Madison, MS

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2019

- O -

Ann O'Brien

Abita Springs, LA

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2007

The Ann O'Brien jewelry is handcrafted in both sterling wire and 14k gold wire. All of the pieces are hand twisted 10 or 20 gauge silver or gold wire finished by soldering, artistically hammering, and then polishing. Although Ann passed away in 2006 from cancer, her husband and her assistant decided to keep her dream alive by using her sketchbook designs to create

jewelry with the quality and craftsmanship that was her hallmark. Her studio remains open and her work continues.

Donna Osburn

Vicksburg, MS

Glass

Stained

Guild member since 2019

- P -

Tim Pace

Finger, TN

Metal

Metal

Guild member since 2004

Tim is a metal sculpture artist working in the medium of found art. Found art is using an object that already exists and turning it into art. He designs and created natural and painted pieces by welding together recycled metals. He tried to retain the shape of the object, to keep it recognizable. His materials range from auto parts to toys, cutlery to industrial scrap. If it can be welded, he uses it. Each piece is unique, created one-of-a-kind, and is signed and numbered. The sizes range from tabletop to eight feet tall and include an assortment of people, animals, flowers, insects, and abstracts.

Cindy Pagan

Pearl, MS

Mixed Medium

Jewelry

Guild member since 2014

Cindy's lifelong passion of creating objects from scratch began in a summer craft class when she was in junior high. Her unique jewelry evolves from how the materials and her handiwork are combined, inspired by her creativity and vision. Her greatest reward is seeing some of her jewelry as a witnessing tool for her faith and God's glory. "I strive for a positive attitude and have a passion for each piece of jewelry I make and hope others will find enjoyment wearing my Winsome-Creations," says Cindy.

Barbara & Dean Parks

Clinton, MS

Metal (Silver)/Stones

Jewelry

Guild member since 1979

Barbara and Dean work together and almost every piece of jewelry has input from both them. Most of their pieces have a semiprecious gem stone as a focal point. The metal surrounding the

stone is sawed, filed, hammered, and individually applied, so that each piece has its own character and is slightly different from any other piece. The Parks' silver designs tend to have strong geometric lines, clean contemporary, and abstract shapes.

Brenda Parmalee

Jo Patterson

Brandon, MS
Mixed Media
Jewelry
Guild member since 2021

Roger Pearson

Clinton, MS
Metal
Fly Tying
Guild member since 2009

Roger uses feathers, thread, animal fur, and a galaxy of other materials in the intricate art of fly tying. He ties flies for all kinds of fish, from bass to bluegills, salmon to redfish to tarpon. The results are elaborate, festive little works of art, good for attracting fishermen as well as fish. Roger's flies are so attractive they have even been used as tree ornaments at Christmas, and he has some in display cases inscribed with the legend, "In case of fishing emergency, break glass."

Kathy Perito

Madison, MS
Fiber
Weaving
Guild member since 2013

After 30 years of working in various engineering and management positions, Kathy moved to Mississippi and discovered a passion for weaving here at the Craft Center. Weaving gives her the opportunity to apply engineering principals to create textiles and goods for specific functions. Kathy's goal in every weaving project is to ensure the weave structures and fibers selected deliver the expected results. She says, "It is so rewarding to take a few bobbins of yarn and watch a cloth appear as those threads interlace. And best of all, there is always more to learn, try, and share."

Polo Petavanich

Portland, OR
Metal
Jewelry
Guild member since 2016

Bill Pevey

Crystal Springs, MS

Metal
Blacksmithing
Guild member since 2006

Bill grew up with blacksmith tools around him. His grandfather did metal work and later passed his anvil, leg vise, tongs, and forge to Bill's father. As a member of the Mississippi Forge Council, he has the opportunity to demonstrate several times a year at the Agricultural and Forestry Museum for people who have never seen a blacksmith at work. "It gives me a great pleasure," he says, "to tell them the history of blacksmithing while I am making a piece of hardware the way it was made 200 years ago. Working with red hot steel does not give you much time what you are going to do next, so you have to plan ahead to get the desired outcome. I think this is one of the main reasons I am drawn to the fire."

Gail Phipps

Laurel, MS
Clay
Ceramics
Guild member since 2019

Pat Pickering

Florence MS
Wood
Member since 2023

Pat chose his medium after seeing an exhibit of Canes and Staffs by James Oswald in 1974. Mr. Oswald twisted sticks for his shop in Great Britian and seeing his work was mesmerizing for Pat. In his youth, Pat spent most of his time hunting, camping and hiking.
Categories: Carving

Roger and Renae Poer

Sylvan Springs, AL
Mixed Media
Jewelry
Guild member since 2015

Katherine Prejean

Youngsville, LA
Metal
Jewelry
Guild member since 2016

Janet Preslan

Vicksburg, MS
Fiber
Clothing
Guild member since 2011

Brooke Pumphrey

Brandon, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2012

Chainmail was used in ancient Europe to make strong and impenetrable armor for knights. Today, Brooke uses it to create unique and highly imaginative jewelry and ornamentals. Although the material is ancient in origin, the techniques and results used by result in jewelry that is stylish and modern. Brooke has taught several people the art of chainmail weaving and would be glad to hold how-to classes for others who would like to learn the art.

Becky Purvis

- R -

Carl Rensink

Moss Point, MS

Wood

Boxes

Guild member since 2012

Carl Studied Industrial Arts in high school and engineering in college, but gained a lot of his experience from building furniture for his family and repairing furniture that got bathed in Hurricane Katrina's salt water. Noticing the potential of some damaged church siding as well as a mottled fence from the storm, Carl crafted over 300 birdhouses designed to look like churches. These were sold to members of the damaged church and all over Mississippi. Today, Carl incorporates inspiration from Hurricane Katrina, the coast, and churches into intricate inlays of his boxes. Instead of using stains or dyes, Carl uses different types of wood for the color palette, giving the box an organic look and feel. Carl strives for his boxes to be functional, attractive, durable, and with one look will tell you 'NOT MADE IN CHINA.'

Chuck Rhoads

Brandon, MS

Metal

Metal

Guild member since 2020

Chuck learned the how to do Repousse' designs from a former professor of Mississippi College. He later taught the technique to his own art students. He retired after teaching for 28 years, and he now focuses on his art. Chuck has been a member of the Mississippi Arts Educator Association since 1992 and has exhibited in numerous exhibits. He draws his inspiration from architecture, music, nature, and the Bible.

Shawn Richards

Brandon, MS

Fiber, Paper
Knitting & Crochet, Scherenschnitte
Guild member since 2018

Sarah Rick

Sallis, MS
Paper, Fiber
Silhouettes, Quilts
Guild member since 2008

Barbara Rigdon

Little Rock, MS
Wood
Baskets
Guild member since 2008

As a child, Barbara watched her uncle make white-oak baskets. As an adult, she asked her aunt, who made egg baskets, to teach her the craft. She made her first basket in 1999 and since then has learned to weave different basket types through studying books or by analyzing baskets produced by others. Most of all, she relishes making stained baskets of walnut, driftwood, or oak. She enjoys using color in some of her weaving, dying her own reeds when time permits. She weaves her baskets at the family farm, Honeysuckle Hill, where they also raise miniature pygmy goats. Each basket is individually numbered, signed, and dated. Her desire is to encourage others to learn the ancient art of basket weaving.

Rory Roark

Jackson MS
Wood
Member since 2023

Rory's interest in crafts evolved along the line of one thing leading to another beginning with 2D design software. He attempts to design and create each pen as a unique work of art. Rory's inspiration has no one source. Craft has become a passion for him and it has opened a channel for expressing pent up ideas and creativity.

Categories: Pens

Robbie Robertson

Liberty, MS
Wood
Wood
Guild member since 2006

Robbie's "Berry Creek Bowls" are hand-chopped and custom-made from southern hardwoods. The wood is dried and seasoned for months, then designed, marked and chopped out with an ax and a hatchet. After the bowl is crafted, it is put into a plastic bag to slow the drying process and avoid cracking. Each bowl is hand-rubbed with food-safe Danish Oil, a special blend that created a soft sheen. Since the bowls are all hand-crafted, they are all one-of-a-kind.

Susan Ford Robertson

Elizabeth Robinson

Jackson, MS

Glass

Sculpture

Guild member since 1989

Elizabeth was vice-president and business manager of Pearl River Glass Studio before establishing her own Studio C in 1985. She has had solo shows and has exhibited at museums of art through the nation. Several years ago, Elizabeth began to have dreams in which houses of light appeared. As a glass artist, she wanted to make them real and she developed a 'language' of glass, a melding of glass, light, and shadow, with which she could make these houses and draw people into their warmth and comfort. This developed into her 'Spirit House' series. She believes that art is not only personal expression, but also a public act, serving to help people bring their own spiritual needs and longings into focus.

Susan Rodrigue

Pairieville, LA

Clay

Functional Stoneware

Guild member since 2017

Susan creates pottery to add simple beauty to everyday function, adding joy to daily living using as many as sense as possible, especially visual and tactile. She hopes when you visit her booth at an art show, you also experience the smell and taste of fresh garlic and bread as she demonstrates use of garlic mincer plate. Her food-safe, functional stoneware pottery is oven, dishwasher, and microwave safe. Most pieces are wheel thrown then embellished with carving, distortion, or printing. Glazes are applied by dipping, painting, and trailing then fired in electric kilns.

Jack Rogers

Huntsville, AL

Wood

Turned

Guild member since 1998

Maxine Rogers

Morton, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2014

As one half of Copper 'n' Rocks Studio, Maxine formed the studio with her lifelong friend as an outlet for two crafty Southern girls. It all started with a bag of glass beads from a flea market and craft store wire. People noticed her earrings and asked if she could make some for them. Now, years passed and many YouTube tutorials later, she has learned how to wire wrap, hammer,

texture, torch, shape, etc. with various metals. She especially like to work with copper, producing earrings, necklaces, and cuffs mostly. Each of her creations are on of a kind, fueled by her creative energy and ability to fluidly work the copper into the organic and beautiful shapes she wants and embellishing the works with gemstones and glass or metal beads.

Susan Rogers

Memphis TN
Fiber
Categories: Quilts

Lillian Rolfe

Madison, MS
Fiber
Quilting
Guild member since 2022

Thomas Root

Madison, MS
Wood
Mixed Media
Guild member since 2008

As a self-retired CEO of two companies, Tom found himself with time on his hands. He started making trivets out of wine corks for neighbors and friends as a method of filling some of that time. Soon his creations were so much in demand that he branched out to making lamps, wine bottles, fish, flowers, and butterflies out of wine corks. Tom cuts the corks in half to provide a flat surface and hot glues them to ¼ or ½ inch laminated boards. When the design is finished, a frame is custom cut to match the board. Each piece of art comes ready to hang with hook, brackets, and wall spacers made from a bed of hot glue sprinkled with cork dust.

Roy Roy

- S -

Martha Scarborough

Brandon, MS
Metal
Jewelry
Guild member since 2009

Martha like ancient methods of jewelry making. Chainmail, once used to make armor, combined with other methods of jewelry making, creates exquisite and highly original designs. Martha finds it soothing to link together rings and watch a pattern unfold. It is fascinating that a ring can be put together in many different ways to create a variety of shapes. Where others see decorative ironwork, sewer grates, and scroll work, Martha sees patterns to create jewelry.

Alvin Schilling

Purvis, MS

Wood

Bowls

Guild member since 1996

Alvin began woodworking in his father's shop as a child, making birdhouses, lamps, tables, etc. In 1992, he began turning bowls and in 1995, attended the John Campbell School on hollow vessel turning. Alvin is drawn to the beauty of the natural edge bowl, as it retains more of the natural characteristics of the tree. Alvin's work with a large paper company allowed him to visit wood-turners and lather manufacturers all over North America. This has led to an excellent level of versatility and creativity in his bowls.

Michelle and Dayton Scoggins

Heidelberg, MS

Wood

Sculpture

Guild member since 2003

Dayton's subjects are usually wildlifes. He has given extensive demonstrations across the United States and abroad and has won dozens of awards. Some of these awards include placing third at the invitational English Open Competition, held at the Queen's estate in Sandringham, and representing the United States in an international event in Japan in 2007. He has taken first place awards in competitions in several states.

Justin Selway

Canton, MS

Mixed Media

Encaustic

Guild member since 2022

Peter Sherman

Natchez, MS

Wood

Bowls

Guild member since 2019

Robert and Debra Shinn

Scooba, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2005

Robert and Debra Shinn collaborate on their handmade jewelry designs and productions. They take special delight in updating powerful images from the past for today's world. They are proud to have been chosen by the Mississippi Band of Choctaws as the first silversmiths in over 200

years to make their traditional silver combs. Their work has been called fantastic, gorgeous, playful, and elegant, but never minimalistic.

Pam Sigman

Canton, MS

Fiber

Dolls

Guild member since 2010

Pam Sigman creates intricate porcelain dolls for customers from Mississippi to Australia. Each one is meticulously planned, hand-poured, and painted. Each doll takes 40 or more hours to complete, and Pam finds true joy in making each one of them. Through the years, she has expanded her repertoire to include Christmas ornament, small teacup fairies, life-size dolls, and even dolls that look like customers' children. Individuals and retail stores throughout the world are purchasing Pam's dolls. When she isn't making dolls or spending time with her family, Pam enjoys riding and caring for Tennessee walking horses.

Sisters Creation Studio

Denham Spring, LA

Beads

Beadwork

Guild member since 1998

Charles Smith

Jason Smith

Clinton, MS

Wood/Gourds

Musical Instruments, Banjos, etc.

Guild member since 2014

Jason Smith is a builder and player of banzas. 'Banza' was the name given in the early French West Indies colonies to a 4-string guitar-like instrument made of a skin-covered half gourd to which is attached a long, flat neck which supports strings. The banza was also called a 'banjer,' a banjar,' and a 'bandalore,' and many other terms in the English colonies and mainland. Jason began learning his craft of banza construction in 1993 after meeting Scott Didlake of Jackson, MS. He uses high quality gourds grown primarily in Mississippi, and salvaged Mississippi heart pine, as well as imported wood to build banzas of many different sizes, scale lengths, and string configurations. Banzas can be built with or without frets.

Roger Smith

Steve Smith

Cropwell, AL

Glass, Recycled Bottles

Jewelry, Mosaics

Guild member since 2016

Steve Smith has always been an artist, it just took him about 50 years to realize it! A friend moved, sold him her kiln, and he began experimenting with whatever he could find to melt. With Steve's love of nature and hope to leave this world a better place for those come after us, re-configuring bottles otherwise bound for a landfill seemed a good path to follow. The reflective and sensual nature of the glass invites visual as well as tactile examination. He seeks to create works with balance, harmony, and reflectivity that allows for ever-changing imagery. His pieces are not transparent like stained glass- they look back at you, inviting deeper exploration.

Bryan Smyda

Brandon, MS

Wood

Furniture

Guild member since 2002

Bryan has worked in many mediums, but he loves capturing the beauty of wood for fine furniture. His work ranges from custom kitchens, entertainment centers, beds, tables, mantles, to chairs. He loves to work with both domestic and exotic woods. The mix of traditional and contemporary designs produces a beautiful result.

Sis & D's Spoons

Brandon, MS

Wood

Spoons

Guild member since 2001

The artistry of Sis & D's began as an accident with a broken store-bought wooden spoon and some ice cream. Doug Lamb took tools and wood to his workshop to create a functional spoon that would serve his needs. Friends and neighbors saw the spoon and soon the process had to be expanded to fit a growing demand. Doug found a partner in fellow artist Celeste Wild and the adventure started. Their spoons are made from the finest hardwood with each piece uniquely designed to show the beauty of the wood and the imagination and skill of the artists. Sis & D's spoons can now be found in all 50 states and in at least 22 foreign countries.

Candace Spurzam

Ridgeland, MS

Glass

Fused Glass

Guild member since 2011

Candace has been exploring color and art for a lifetime. She says, "It doesn't feel like a 'calling' as much as it's at the core for me. I minored in art in college, not finding the medium that captured me. I've trained in painting, pottery, sculpting, and welding. Welding came closest, until I took a course at the Craft Center from Jenny Thomas in fused glass. It's a more unusual form of expression, but the biggest joy for me is the tactile piece. For me, the most successful pieces of art practically beg to be touched. They invite an authentic and personal interaction. As in writing my dissertation or 'Occum's Razor' the simplest solution is the best. I gravitate

towards clean, simple design. My design aesthetic mirrors how I prefer life- straight-forward and intellectually sound.”

Lana Stamper

Natchez, MS

Precious Metal Clay

Jewelry

Guild member since 2017

Pia Stelma

Vicksburg, MS

Clay, Fiber

Flowers, Embroidery

Guild member since 2015

Pia, originally from Thailand, remembers seeing a lady selling clay flowers at a craft fair in the hospital where she worked. She was fascinated by the detail and the process, so upon moving to the United States, she began making her delicate blooms with clay imported from Thailand as she waited to receive the credentials necessary to work legally in the USA. Each petal and leaf of each flower are individually made and hand painted. The clay air dries, and because of special secret ingredients, the clay has elastic properties when it dries, giving you flowers that will last a long, long time.

John Stenmark

Madison, MS

Wood

Turning

Guild member since 2008

John likes the fact that the pieces of wood he works with continue to surprise him; one never turns out exactly the way he thinks it will, but they all add texture to his life. He has spent the last seven years concentrating on learning the skills required to practice his craft. He has learned to turn the usual forms and projects, and he has experimented with a variety of surface techniques, texturing, gilding, and patination, stone inlay, and carving. He expects to spend the next seven years stretching those skills and bringing even more innovative ideas to his works.

Keith Stewart

Taylor, MS

Clay

Ceramics

Guild member since 2000

Keith has worked as a full time potter since 1991, and his family has been making pottery for four generations. He produces wheel-thrown stoneware pottery in a shed built by his father. While he uses some techniques common to the southern folk style of his family, he has incorporated the techniques used by contemporary studio potters, such as temperature control

and kilns heated with electricity and natural gas. Keith has studied Oriental pottery and medieval European pottery. This led him to new forms, colors, and textures in his work.

Sherry Stewart

Pearl, MS
Glass
Stained
Guild member since 2021

Adrian Sturdivant

Brandon, MS
Wood
Turned
Guild member since 1995

The majority of Adrian's work is wooden bowls (open and closed faced with and without natural edge) and hollow form art. He also turns Christmas ornaments, wooden pens, and an occasional spinal. He derives satisfaction from sharing enthusiasm for wood with others, especially with beginning woodworkers. Adrian has served as chair of the Mississippi Woodworkers and to work with Magnolia Woodturners, Inc., and to serve two years on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Woodturners, Inc.

Roger Sturdivant

Florence, MS
Glass
Fused Glass
Guild member since 2014

For Roger Sturdivant, it wasn't until on his travels around North America that he found his love for fused glass after seeing several pieces of it in shops in New England and Canada. In 2009, he purchased a small kiln to learn the trade, making mostly Christmas ornaments and other small items for gifts or to sell at local shows. Then in 2011, he purchased a much larger kiln to allow him to do larger pieces. While laborious to some, Roger says that to him creating fused glass is a labor of love, hand cutting each piece of glass and creating his own frit to create beautifully colorful and smooth functional and decorative pieces. Whether it's through the process of pot melting, twisting, or slumping the glass, all of his pieces are bright, colorful, and functional, appealing to all age groups.

- T -

Cathy Talbot

Tupelo, MS
Enamel
Jewelry
Guild member since 2011

Cathy Talbot is a life-long resident of Tupelo, MS. Always interested in the arts, and after raising only one son, time was found for not only enjoying the arts but creating art. Classes at the National Ornamental Metal Museum and Memphis College of Arts leads her to the ancient art of enameling, or the firing of glass to metal. After a day in the corporate world, the lights are on most every night in her backyard “Empty Nest Studio,” where unique jewelry and art objects are handcrafted out of copper, fine silver, and glass enamel. Depending on the desired effect, items are torch-fired or kiln-fired multiple times to achieve the high quality of glass fused onto metal.

Zach Tanksley

Forest, MS

Wood

Turned

Guild member since 2019

Laura Tarbutton Beach House Studio

Brandon, MS

Mixed Media

Jewelry

Guild member since 2011

Laura lives on 11 acres filled with creeks, trees, meadows, and God’s furry creatures. She finds even more inspiration in antique laces and pieces of potpourri, making molds of interesting objects, textures, antique buttons, medals and crosses, and incorporating them into her jewelry designs. She never duplicates her work, using the elements differently in each piece. A precious metal clay kiln or torch is used to fire her PMC pieces and she prefers the natural patina of silver. She shares her knowledge through local collage enrichment programs.

Jerry Taylor

Itta Bena, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2006

Leigh Taylor

Brandon, MS

Beads

Beadwork

Guild member since 1996

Melanie Taylor

Tutwiler, MS

Other

Surface Design

Guild member since 1993

Laura Teague

Baton Rouge, LA
Metal
Jewelry
Guild member since 2008

Laura has been creating metal jewelry in her studio in south Louisiana for almost 10 years and still finds it almost unbelievable that beautiful jewelry that is easy to wear can evolve from and sheets of metal. It happens through experimentation, imagination, and determination in order to shape the metal into a form that is right for each piece. She is inspired by ancient metal patterns and designs, especially those used to produce protective clothing in another time and place. The patterns used in clothing were strong by necessity, with impressive texture but also beautiful and fluid, moving with the body- qualities that are shared with the classic jewelry Laura creates.

Jenny Thomas
Chesterfield, VA
Glass
Fused
Guild member since 2007

Jenny's process for fused glass is based on her foundation as a painter, usually beginning as a sketch. She then assembles the glass, with different colors and layers, by cutting each piece and assembling them to then place in the kiln. The basis of everything she creates is her belief in God as the ultimate Creator. In Genesis 1:26-27, God says [to Jesus and the Holy Spirit] "Let us create man in our image, in our likeness... So God created man in his own image." When asked why this is important to her, Jenny responds, "In light of this being spoken on the sixth day of creation, we are all clearly made in the image of One who is quite creative. Our gifts and abilities differ, but each one of us brings glory to God when we shine in the ways He has equipped us."

Mike Thompson
Raleigh, MS
Gourds
Gourds
Guild member since 2005

Mike and Michelle began growing gourds on their farm in 1996 and were fascinated by their sizes, shapes, and characteristics. Making useful and beautiful items from gourds has grown into a wonderful experience for them. They make intricate cuts with a mini jigsaw to produce baskets, open bowls, and bowls with close fitting lids. They use a wood burner and rotary tools to burn and engrave designs. Mike uses hand-held gouges for chip carving and relief carving. They use stains and dyes on the exterior to enhance the natural beauty of the gourd. The transformation from a plain ol' dirty gourd to a beautifully handcrafted gourd is not an easy one, they say. Part of the transformation is a chore and part is fun, just like life.

Terry Tjader

Marilyn Tolley Rose Studio

Ridgeland, MS
Fiber
Quilts
Guild member since 2010

Lee Toney
Lake Providence, LA
Wood
Bowls and Platters
Guild member since 2018

Ed Tropp
Oxford, MS
Leather
Accessories
Guild member since 2015

Danny Trusty
Tylertown, MS
Wood
Spoons
Guild member since 2021

Clarice Turner
Pontotoc, MS
Mixed Media
Jewelry
Guild member since 2017

Clarice has grown from being a creative jewelry artist to a teacher of jewelry art. Through club workshops that she has presented and assisted with, she has witnessed that people have a definite desire to learn, to be creative, and be unique. She has watched students of various ages pick up hammers, saws, torches, and various tools and learn to use them to complete projects they were proud of. Jewelry art is about learning, sharing and expression of self.

- V -

Susanna Valieva
Member since 2022
Susanna began crafting in 2012 as a hobby. The first class she took was a flower making class and she was hooked. Susanna says that the process of creating each piece begins with the design. Because she has always knitted, crocheted, and sewn, the idea of putting items together without a needle was fascinating.
Categories: Clothing

Terry Vandeventer

Byram, MS
Metal
Knives
Guild member since 1995

Because of the excellence of his handcrafted cutlery, Terry has been promoted to master bladesmith by the American Bladesmith Society. He is one of 112 masters worldwide and is the only one with that rating in Mississippi. In 2005, he was judged Best Bowie Knife in the Arkansas Knifemakers Show, and in 2013, he was given the American Bladesmith Society's Journeyman Knife of the Year award. He also won honors at the Mississippi Knifemaker's Association show in 2002.

- W -

Clayton Waddell
Clinton, MS
Metal
Member since 2022

Clayton is a wood worker, jewelry maker, and tool maker. While occupying himself with wood working, he found significant interest in machine tools, paintings and sculptures. Clayton learned most of crafts in New Orleans at his shop on Magazine Street. He found refuge here in Clinton Mississippi during Katrina and has stayed here since.

Categories: Uncategorized

Jeanne Wakeman
Fort Walton Beach, FL
Glass, Metal
Fused, Jewellery
Guild member since 2016

Randy Walker

Patricia Watkins
Slidell, LA
Clay
Ceramics
Guild member since 1992

A fellow with the Guild, Patricia's work consists primarily of wheel thrown pieces in hi-fired stoneware and porcelain. She produces Raku one of a kind decorative pieces using various firing methods. Her continued exploration of form has led her to focus on altered shapes, to compose vessels that are obviously thrown shapes, but are made asymmetrical with additions of slabs or coils in patterns that are unique to her work. As each shape emerges, it becomes a vehicle for the interplay of pattern, line, and color that she loves.

Virginia Lynn Watkins

Jackson, MS

Fiber

Knitting

Guild member since 2010

Lynn started knitting because she felt a need to create something after her husband's family home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. A distinguished attorney and former newspaper reporter, she used her investigative skills on her new craft, and soon graduated from simply knitting patterns to complex artistry. For her, every project is an adventure, a gift of the spirit as well as the hands. It is also a gift everyone can share, requiring only an inexpensive outlay of equipment and materials and an unlimited imagination.

- W -**Warren Wells**

Madison, MS

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2008

Warren owns and operates a pottery studio in Raleigh and formerly owned and operated one in Arizona. He fires most of his pottery in a gas kiln, but also uses alternative methods such as raku firing and pit firing. To Warren, pottery is more than a means of earning a living, and he takes pride in his work, the quality of it, and the pleasure it brings to others. "When creating individual pieces of pottery, I keep in mind that my work will be enjoyed by families around the world, and will be passed down through generations."

Wells Studio

White Pine, TN

Metal

Enamel Sculpture

Guild member since 2005

The Wells' work as artists and sculptors has been a professional endeavor since 1966. Each piece begins with an idea, which Bob designs and creates on paper or in metal. The full pieces are joined by brazing and soldering the parts together. Color is then added using torch painting and enamel. Because the outcome of color depends on weather and humidity and how hot the torch is, each piece comes out unique. After all of this, Dolores applies a coat of lacquer to condition it to last through all sorts of weather. "We combine our separate skills to design, create, and finish each original piece ourselves with the hopes that the owners will enjoy it as much as we have had the pleasure and fun of creating it."

Sue West

Gulfport, MS

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2013

After retiring in 2004, Mary Sue tried her hand at jewelry making. Some of what she does is self-taught, and the training that she has received at school has polished her skills. According to Mary Sue, fused glass is the most fun and possibly the most frustrating because you don't what you are going to get until it comes out of the kiln. Sometimes it is breath taking and sometimes it goes into the scrap heap. Mary Sue teaches and really enjoy helping others who want to learn. Teaching is her way of giving back to something that has meant so much to her.

Kit White

Billy Joe Whitehead

Starkville, MS

Leather

Belts, Wallets, Etc.

Guild member since 2006

In 1989, Billy Joe wanted a tooled leather guitar strap; that was the beginning of his leatherworking career. He had always enjoyed making things with his hands- woodworking, hand drawing, metal engraving, flint knapping- so he felt confident he could do this. After completing the strap, since he now owned the tools, he made guitar straps for his 'pickin' buddies. Before long, he was creating leathercrafts to sell at craft fairs. He spends hours hand carving pictures and hand crafting custom items for customers. Being a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi has inspired Billy Joe to do his best leather work by getting to know other guild members, by broadening my customer base, and believing in himself and his work.

Claire Whitmore

Huntsville, AL

Fiber

Fabric Design

Guild member since 1993

Allen Whittington

Natchez, MS

Wood, Fiber

Baskets (Nantucket), Caning

Guild member since 1991

Diane Williams

Madison, MS

Mixed Media Fiber

Fiber Arts

Guild member since 2011

Diane has been a seamstress for over 45 years and once owned her own business. She has made a few traditional quilts along the way, but has only recently discovered that working with fabrics is

an art form. Now she sees the world as a landscape that can be recreated in dimensional and territorial layers of fabrics. The world is at her fingertips as she incorporates elements such as stone, pine straw, hand-spun silk yarn, beads, and metal. Diane's work is spiritual, and she considers herself merely the vessel by which the elements and fibers creatively express themselves.

Lynda Williams

Bay Minette, AL

Metal

Jewelry

Guild member since 2013

A multi-talented craftsman and a historian, in addition to jewelry-making, Lynda has studied and worked with weaving, pottery, metal, casting, and sculpture. Lynda's enamel jewelry is inspired by her knowledge and love of plants. Lynda says that enameling is "such a surprise every time the piece is removed from the kiln. There is something truly magical about enameling and the sense of anticipation as each piece emerges to take on new color." Her work was selected for the White House Christmas tree in 2001, and her bas-relief sculptures of historic building can be seen throughout Arkansas.

S.H. Williams

Starkville, MS

Wood

Coopery

Guild member since 2002

Sharon Williams

Coldwater, MS

Fiber

Weaving

Guild member since 1986

Sharon is a weaver of handwoven clothing. Through the use of color, texture, and fabric manipulation, she brings the simple straight forward lines of traditional garments such as the Hopi wrap, ruana or vest into the contemporary realm. The stole is no longer a plain piece of cloth, but an elegant creation to drape the female form. Sharon selects all of her yarns, weaves all of her own fabrics, and constructs each garment. The hand finishing is also done by her hand. Once she sews in her label, anyone who buys her handwoven garment will know that she would not sell any piece that she would not personally be proud to wear herself.

Ashley Williamson

Brandon, MS

Jewelry

Member since 2023

Ashley began learning her craft in 2022. She was influenced by different cultures and began researching jewelry and the process from those cultures. Ashley draws inspiration from everyday life from flowers to television shows. She loves finding the positives in life and making beautiful jewelry from them.

Categories: Beads

Bob Willis

Pelahatchie, MS

Wood

Turned/Carved

Guild member since 1977

Johnny Wilson

Crystal Springs, MS

Wood

Spoons/Bowls

Guild member since 2010

“Nugget” Wilson’s journey into designing a spoon or other kitchen utensils begins with a unique piece of wood. All decisions made concerning the shape and size are determined with the first feel of the wood. He uses the ‘leftovers,’ the bits and pieces, and the ‘nuggets’ that the carpenter can no longer use. He uses the burls and wild grain patterns that are not appropriate for what the cabinetmaker needs. His signature is the curved and crooked handles made to comfortably fit the cook’s hand.

Steve Windham

Brandon, MS

Wood

Spoons, Turned

Guild member since 2006

Cynthia M. Wright

Jackson, TN

Fiber

Knitting

Guild member since 2019

Edna Earle Wright

Oxford, MS

Clay

Pottery

Guild member since 2019

Bebe Wolfe

William Wood

Magnolia Woodturners

Jackson MS

Wood

Categories: Carving, Home accessories, Toys, Wood

- Y -

Andre Yerger

Abbeville, MS

Clay

Ceramics

Guild member since 1997

While studying philosophy at the University of Mississippi, Yerger developed an interest in pottery which led him to a scholarship at prestigious Penland and apprenticeships with several master potters. He continued his exploration of pottery by working with a crafts cooperative in Papua, New Guinea, while serving with the U.S. Peace Corps. For his unique and beautiful pottery pieces, he formulates and mixes his own crystalline glazes, and all his food ware is microwave and dishwasher safe. Yerger has taught workshops throughout the South and at John C. Campbell Folk School.

Andy Young

Haley Yurkow

Brandon, MS

Glass Canvas

Mixed Media

Guild member since 2018