

ARTIST CORNER JENNIFER JOHNSON



Hi y'all and welcome to the Artist Corner!

We have another two wonderful artists to highlight for this newsletter.

Our first artist is Jennifer Johnson. Jennifer is an oil artist, a Casper native. Graduated from KW and was guided there by Mr. Loveland. Where her art passion began. Her hobby though, is ceramics. She was also in education and started Envision. Which is an adaptive arts program. Jennifer has a neurological condition and had to re-learn function in her limbs and painting was a great way to do that during rehab. She holds Envision classes at Art 321, and is a board member there.

Envision is an inclusive community of artists creating an accessible studio space. Groups focus on fine art mediums, skills/techniques acquisition and adaptation, and engage in cooperative projects. As an adaptive art program, participants will be able to explore creativity through painting, clay, printmaking, performing arts and more.

Tijana: Thank you for sitting down with me. As we've been talking about art and forms, what do you love to create most and how do you decide on a piece to create?

Jenn: Thank you for having me. I love modern art and narrow it down to abstract art. Something about stripping away all the extra and exposing the rest. I was really moved by experimental abstract art. How a body feels and changes over time so do my oil paintings, I paint heavy, which could take 2 to 4 years to fully dry. They change over time, colors and depth, it's a living art experience.

Tijana: Oil paintings really do take time to dry and yours are amazing. Do you have a preference on what you paint?

Jenn: I enjoy exploring Wyoming landscapes and enjoy doing portraits of Wyoming animals in abstract art form. Our Wyoming grasses was my inspiration for the Monochromatic exhibit.

Tijana: It was great to see your ceramic piece, in our Love Letters to the Arts exhibit. If I may ask, why did you decide to join the collective?

Jenn: I joined the collective for the fine art and the opportunity to showcase my work in an art museum.

Tijana: We are excited to have you with us and be a part of this wonderful art community and our partnership with the NIC. We love art, our artists, our community and we center around it.

Jenn: Thank you so much. I am excited as well. Looking forward to the next show.

Tijana: Us too, we will see you there!



DEBBIE JENKINS



Our next artist is Debbie Jenkins with Black Pebble Studio. Where she creates and makes jewelry from her studio, doing what she loves. Before she was making jewelry, Debbie was working for an insurance agency and was there for 27 years. Now she makes us pretty things.

Tijana: Good to see you again, welcome to your corner friend!

Debbie: Thank you for having me. Good to see you as well. Been too long.

Tijana: I believe it's been since the Nic fest. Which is coming up real fast! Do you have your booth for this year?

Debbie: Yes ma'am, we are getting ready for the Nic fest and couple more events. We do about 3 to 5 shows per year.

Tijana: That's wonderful, I'm excited to see what you make and bring! I love my pieces from you. When did you start Black Pebble Studio?

Debbie: I started Black Pebble Studio in 2019. Started making jewelry 19 years ago and was doing beading and wire work. About 9 years ago, I took a 4 day metalsmith class and was hooked! That was it, I knew I wanted to do this and learn more techniques and make jewelry out of sheets of metal. I am mostly self taught. Learning from books, you tube and my peers.

Tijana: Oh, so you love the smell of metal in the morning, Haha. Your jewelry and talent is amazing. Where do you find your inspiration for design?

Debbie: Haha, I do! Sometimes it is shapes, colors, patterns I notice. It just clicks and I make something.

Tijana: I feel as everything around us is an inspiration. It can be anything. Besides playing with metal, what do you like to do outside of that?

Debbie: I enjoy my time with my family and grandchildren. I go thrifting, it's fun. My other hobbies include, painting in watercolor. I enjoy making cards for those dear to me and I also enjoy sewing.

Tijana: I didn't know you did sewing too.

Debbie: Yes, it has proven to be another form of therapy. My mom sewed for me and my siblings growing up.

Tijana: I just love how many artists have multiple talents, types of art you do and doing what you love. It is what makes art and artistic eye so great.

Debbie: I agree with you. We all have an artist inside of us. Don't be afraid to show it to the world.

Tijana: I couldn't agree with you more. I love your pieces you have at the gift shop at the Nic. It makes me happy to see your work and everyone else's available to the public.

Debbie: Yes, it's another great opportunity. My goal this year is to volunteer more time with the Collective and be more active in it.

Tijana: We would love that. We need great volunteers like you. Happy you're with us and the art community. Good people, great artists.

Debbie: Thank you so much and thank you for having me here. See what 2024 brings.

Tijana: Thank you as well. I can't wait to see what we all accomplish this next year!

