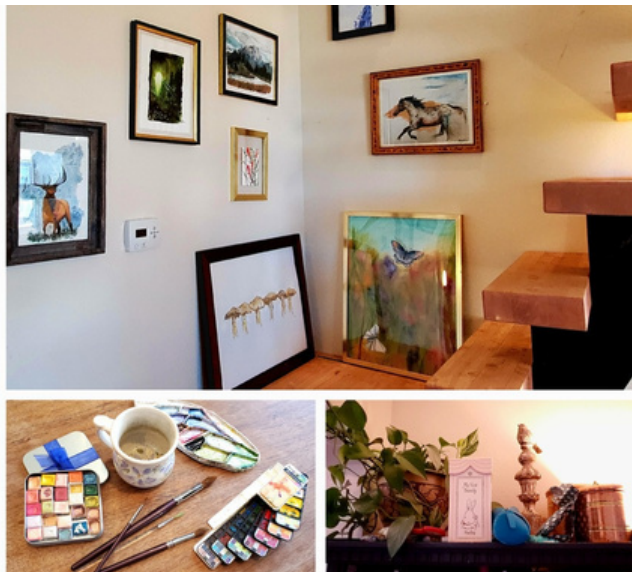


# ARTIST CORNER

## JULIANNE DYER



**T:** It was my pleasure to sit down and chat with Juliane Dyer with The Meadowlark & Co. Juliane is a watercolor artist and does some beautiful hand lettering as well. Welcome Juliane to your artist corner! Please tell us how has life influenced your art and creative journey?

**J:** I wasn't always a painter. I began my creative journey as a young pianist. I've composed and produced an album, have a degree in vocal performance and also taught music privately for several years. I also spent many years learning and teaching Irish Step Dancing. When my first baby was born, I began to take a break from music as he had terrible colic and struggled sleeping through sound of any kind. That made practicing music impossible for me, so I needed to find a different outlet. I had always enjoyed coloring and drawing, mostly with only graphite/pencil. Color and paint was intimidating to me.

**T:** Music is all around us. How did you transition to watercolor?

**J:** My first years as a mother, my in-laws had gifted me some watercolor pencils, and as I began looking for new ways of expressing myself, I picked them up. That soon turned into deciding to try out watercolor paint for real. I found it wasn't as intimidating or complicated as I had imagined, and immediately fell in love. That was four years ago now.

**T:** Glad you did. Are you after a certain style?

**J:** I'd say I'm still developing my own style. I'm hoping that whatever my style turns out to be will include making that which is inspiring, uplifting, encouraging, and beautiful.

**T:** What inspires your creativity?

**J:** I'm inspired by my family, words, the outdoors, and my garden. I think that beauty is all around us and I try to capture it. Our creators work inspirers me. I don't know what I would do without being able to create. I feel like there is a pent-up energy inside that I have

to get out, and such a fulfillment when it's been released.

**T:** I think all artists have that energy that needs released. How do you deal with artist blocks and balance home life?

**J:** Sometimes my blocks are focused on the uncertainty of how to approach a subject. Sometimes it's being exhausted and knowing that if I force it, it won't be what I need it to be. I try to give myself time to work things out in my mind before I put brush to paper, and taking a break to sit on my front steps in the garden always helps. I do try to carve out time every week to be productive. Last year, I had a lengthy creative dry spell while I was pregnant. I'll never forget when a kind person told me that it was alright if I wasn't creating art outwardly because I was creating something even more beautiful inwardly.

**T:** You are doing an amazing job, that is for sure. As I'm sitting here at your kitchen table, your studio is your home! I love this staircase here, showcasing your paintings!

**J:** I don't have a perfect studio -maybe someday. But for now, my paper, pigments, and pallet occupy the top two shelves of my tallest bookshelf: safely out of reach of my two climbing kiddos. (The lower shelf holds their own pigments and paper, and some of their colorful paintings.) My paint brushes stand in a turquoise vase on the windowsill above my kitchen sink, glinting in the sun. My large paper portfolio is hidden beside my piano for easy but unobtrusive access. The corner of our house by the staircase my husband built is hung with a few of my paintings to remind me to keep creating beauty. I'm learning that if you wait till you have the right tools, the perfect place, or uninterrupted time, you might never make at all.

**T:** Do you have a dream project?

**J:** A few beautiful dreams I have involve painting a wildlife series, perhaps someday opening a brick and mortar shop for my art business "The Meadowlark & Company", and hosting co-ops and workshops. But mostly I hope to help others see that they can find avenues for their creativity, and that they too can create and inspire joy and beauty.

**T:** That sounds like a great one! It would be an awesome place to come to and enjoy. Thank you for sharing a little bit of your life with us and the rest of the collective. Your pieces are always inspiring and beautiful.

Juliane's Bison is currently hanging at the Nic, for our last exhibit of the season. Go see it in person if you can. You can see her work on IG and FB: The Meadowlark & Co.

## REI LE



**T:** Our second artist is Rei Le. She is a young upcoming artist and is going back to school to pursue art and fashion design. Welcome to your artist corner Rei. Thank you for being here and joining the collective. Please introduce yourself.

**R:** My name is Rei, I am 20 yrs old and was born and raised in Colorado. Moved to Casper last summer. I have always been a very creative spirit and when I moved to Casper, I met Tijana through a mutual friend, and she introduced me to the Casper art community. I truly have her to thank for exploring me to participate in the Casper Artists' Collective, as I am not usually one to share much of my art publicly.

**T:** I am so glad we met and that you are brave to showcase your art. When I saw some of your drawings, I just knew you had to join the collective. We are here to help you grow as an artist. When you showed me your eye painting, I said you had to submit this for the Juried exhibit. No excuses! With that, "Opening Your Eyes" won the beginner category! How did the news go over?

**R:** I was absolutely shocked and ecstatic. I really didn't expect to win anything. And I never imagined that my art would be in a public museum at an exhibit. The piece that I submitted was really just a fun, relaxing piece to create.

**T:** It's an awesome piece and a great opportunity as an upcoming artist like yourself. What is your goal for your future as an artist?

**R:** I'd love to be able to branch out and create larger scale more intense pieces. And I'd love to be able to share more of my art and maybe even sell my art, do commissions in the future. My dream as an artist would actually be to become a fashion designer.

**T:** You are very creative and you have tailored a few pieces. I can see you making a whole runway show one day! What would be your style? **R:** I draw a lot of inspiration from Gothic, psychedelic and surreal imagery and I really enjoy fusing styles and artistic mediums. My art truly comes from my soul, as I believe it does for any creator and a lot of my style choices resonate from imagery I see in dreams and during meditation. This piece in specific, came to me during meditation. One of my biggest inspirations is Freda Kahlo and the way she expressed her emotions and pain in such an esoteric fashion, I'm really deeply connected with that.

**T:** Would you say that art is an emotional experience? I also believe that art comes from the soul, your whole being really.

**R:** Most definitely. I believe art is the language and the union of mind, body soul, and heart, and I can feel and see the emotion. The blood, sweat and the tears that go into other creators pieces. Art moves the viewer and the artist, inside and out. And to see the impact my art has on others, is an opportunity I'm absolutely honored to have.

**T:** and we are honored to have you with us and show your beautiful work. I am excited for your future endeavor and growth in your art and where it takes you.

Thank you for sitting down with me. Looking forward to your next piece!

