

# MEET YOUR PRESENTERS



## **Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien**

I have been an artist and educator for many years, and my favorite color is pink. The rewards of doing something you love and passing that love onto others has been one of my greatest joys. Art has taken me around the world and educating others has allowed me to share what I have learned. I enjoy being part of a students' creative process. [www.agnesnora.com](http://www.agnesnora.com)

## **Cindy Bader**

I am the owner of Patterns on the Prairie. I have been a quilter for over 30 years now and have turned my hobby into a career by starting a long arm quilt business, speaking, teaching quilting classes, and designing quilt patterns. My passion is sharing my love of quilting with others of all ages and skill levels! I love helping quilters grow in their quilting journey; always with kindness, encouragement, and a genuine desire to see them succeed. [www.patternsontheprairie.com](http://www.patternsontheprairie.com)

## **Diane Bakker**

Diane Bakker holds a BA in Elementary Education from the U of MN, Morris and taught 4th grade in Willmar for 8 years before embarking on home-educating their sons for the next 18 years. Throughout that time, she also loved teaching enrichment classes for K-12 students. She has continued to provide enrichment activities for little ones to seniors in their golden years. She loves to see the sparkle in eyes of all ages when they learn something new!

## **Sheku Bannister (a.k.a BIGG Shake) & Mixhael Angelou**

See Keynote page <https://linktr.ee/Bsheku>

## **Sarah Benarek**

I have a master's degree in art therapy & counseling. My Favorite thing is to share and create art with others and help them find confidence in self-expression. I love sculpting with clay, painting, using mixed media, sewing, photography, graphic design and more!

## **Megan Busman**

Hello! My name is Megan Busman. I teach art at Round-Lake Brewster. I love to explore different types of art, find new thrift stores and coffee shops, and hang out with my two kitties, Biscuit and Ducky.

## **Ms.Chevious (a.k.a. Melanie Cable)**

Ms.Chevious (Melanie Cable) is a full-time artist that does whimsical and fun artwork in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, chalk, mixed media, photography, and illustration. She tours the Midwest in the summer and is rarely seen in the winter months, like Bigfoot. [www.facebook.com/Ms.CheviousMurals](https://www.facebook.com/Ms.CheviousMurals)



## **Jennifer Christensen**

Mrs. Christensen has been helping kids make amazing art since 2013! She's the elementary art teacher at RTR and loves coming up with fun, creative projects for her students. She grew up in Marshall, where she currently lives with her husband, her silly 3-year-old daughter, and her smiley 9-month-old son. When she's not making art, she enjoys playing outside with her family, listening to exciting stories on audiobooks, and hunting for cool treasures while thrifting.

## **Cindy Demers**

I am a retired art teacher and have also taught piano to all ages from preschool to adult. In my retirement, I love spending time with my grandchildren and teaching art classes and art forms in a variety of places. My husband and I travel as much as we can and take in NASCAR races whenever possible.

## **Ed Fornberg**

I currently teach K-6 art to about 250 kids at WWG school in Walnut Grove and Homeschool art class to 30 kids in Westbrook. I love being creative, spending time with my grandkids and working on cars and trucks. I have taught for 47 years, and I still love it.

## **Janel Guertin**

I'm a 25-year-old artist from Granite Falls. My inspiration in life & in my art is cats! I have 4 cats, a Boston Terrier, and a hedgehog. I've always been a crazy cat lady, and I absolutely love to share my obsession with cats through my fun cartoon paintings! I've always seen beauty in cats, but painting them has helped me see the beauty in art and the world around me. I love having a creative process to help me see the world through a new lens!

## **Bradley Hall**

Brad is a watercolor and printmaker artist living and working in Granite Falls, Minnesota. He carves linoleum blocks, paints watercolors, and combines both mediums. He sells his work at galleries and art shows throughout the Midwest. He loves teaching his methods to young students! [bradleyhallgallery.com](http://bradleyhallgallery.com)

## **Clayton Hubert**

Clayton Hubert is the K-12 art teacher at Red Rock Central School in Lamberton, Minnesota. He loves helping students be creative and try new things in art. In his free time, Mr. Hubert makes sculptures by melting iron and pouring it into sand molds. He enjoys working with fire and metal to create exciting works of art!

## **Tamara Isfeld**

Tamara Isfeld is a local artist and art teacher who loves mixing imagination with creative techniques. She's been making art for over 20 years and enjoys working with students of all ages. Tamara often combines nature, culture, and storytelling in her work—and she's excited to help you bring your own amazing dragon to life!



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# MEET YOUR PRESENTERS CONT.



## Zachary Jahn

I am an Abstract and Surrealist painter and illustrator who works in acrylic, ink, watercolor and beyond. I am also a CTE, a careers and technical skills teacher, in Montevideo. I enjoy foraging, time spent outdoors, RPGs and cooking.

## Oak Kelsey

I am a two-dimensional artist and musician from Marshall, Minnesota. I paint, do graphic design, draw with chalk and make zines. In my spare time I take photos, make short films, make music and ride bike.

## Krystl Louwagie

Krystl grew up on a Minnesota farm, graduated with a Studio Art degree with an emphasis on intaglio printmaking from Hamline University in St. Paul and currently lives in Marshall. She works full-time for the non-profit Southwest Minnesota Arts Council. On the side, she finds time to work various art gigs. She mostly creates ink and marker portraits (people & pets) and short autobiographical comics about her life. You can follow her artistic journey on Facebook under Krystl Louwagie-Artist & Instagram under ArtByKrystl or Krystl's website, [artbykrystl.com](http://artbykrystl.com).

## Kathleen Marihart

Kathleen is a lifelong artist and a former elementary school teacher and reading specialist, with over forty years of experience in education. Primarily a mixed media artist, Kathleen enjoys working with a variety of mediums including watercolor, acrylics, collage, monoprinting on a gelli plate, and inks. She also explores textile arts, such as quilting. Since 2011, she has been an exhibiting artist in The Meander, the Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl. Previously, for 8 years, she owned The Smallest Art Gallery in downtown Ortonville, Minnesota, where she taught both children and adult art classes.

## SammyJo Miller

Hi, I'm SammyJo Miller! I'm a visual artist and teacher who runs a mobile art studio, bringing hands-on art experiences directly to kids and communities. I love helping young artists build confidence and explore their creativity through drawing, painting, and collaborative projects. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy making my own art, spending time outdoors, and finding inspiration in everyday life. [www.sjmillersarts.com](http://www.sjmillersarts.com)

## Tony Moger

Hello, my name is Anthony "Tony" Moger. I'm from Southwest Minnesota. Growing up on a busy farm, music was always there. Whether listening to or creating it on different instruments, music has been a friend of mine for as long as I can remember. In 2016, I received a kidney transplant and less than a year later, my wife and I had our first child. Playing guitar was something I did with my 2nd chance at life and for my new role as a father. I am grateful to be here today sharing music with others, and for all the opportunities I've had that brought music into my life. I would like to help bring those opportunities to children and inspire them develop their own joy in music.

## Adam Preuss

I am a self-taught artist who specializes in abstract portraits and mural works. I am a member of the Upper Sioux Community and work as a regional coordinator for Canvas Health. I also own and operate Falls Cafe & Canoe in Granite Falls. My wife and I paint murals and pictures in our spare time. I enjoy the outdoors, traveling, and cooking.

## Kady Simpson

Kady Simpson is an artist who has learned a lot of different techniques for creating. She is now working on combining all her ideas into art. Her and her son DaVinci call Marshall home where they enjoy spending time with their two pups Cookie & Tommy!

## John Sterner

John has been involved in art in so many aspects. He has taught art for many years...from first graders through university students. John has also taught workshops, small groups, community programs and university connected presentations. He makes personal and public art. He works in many mediums such as sculpting in bronze, iron and fabricated steel, making graphic art on the computer and paper, and he loves to paint.

## Jim Swartz

Jim Swartz is a retired SMSU Art Professor, where he taught pottery, sculpture, jewelry, and later also digital photo over the 33 years. He is a YAC regular and has given many other pottery, sculpture and metal casting workshops for students and adults over the years. Jim specializes in welding, metal casting, iron pours and digital photography for his creative work.

## Michelle Weber

I am a full-time rancher, artist, author, illustrator and entrepreneur. I have been building my art business for nearly 15 years with a main focus on oil paintings on canvas and selling fine art prints. I have written three children's books and illustrated 12. My work ships all over the world and most recently, I was represented by the Museum of Western Art in their 2025 "Round Up" and was invited back for 2026. My storefront, gallery and studio space, "The Studio", is located downtown Lake Benton, MN. <http://michelleweberstudio.com/>

## Nicole Zempel

Years ago, curiosity led me deep into the wilds of the Minnesota River Valley. This incredible desire to explore and learn from the natural world has only intensified since. I am a natural world enthusiast, forager, artist and regular contributor to Pioneer PBS's Prairie Sportsman "Fast Forage" segments. Whether it be through my Wild Roots workshops, art classes and exhibits, or hands-on foraging experiences and nature walks - it is always my hope to inspire others. I am also employed at Minnesota West Community and Technical College and am an active community advocate - volunteering my time to a variety of endeavors. I have a son, Noah, my dog Rae, two cats - Morgan Freeman and Jack, and two African Grey parrots Charlie and Lola.



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