

Artist Biographies

Yussuf Baba learned gold and silver smithing from his father and relatives in Kismayo, Somalia. During the 1991 Civil War in Somalia, Yussuf and thousands of others fled the country into Kenya, where Yussuf lived in a refugee camp for more than 10 years. Through the efforts of the United Nations, the Somali Bantu have resettled in Milwaukee and in other United States cities. Yussuf is now a US citizen. Yussuf Baba has re-established himself as an artist of filigree jewelry. All his jewelry starts with one thin wire, which is twisted, cut, wrapped, and set into unique designs.

Kristi Wilson, mum to two quirky and brilliant special-needs kids, fell backwards into the creative arts, via chocolate-covered activism. After wearing multiple career hats, having nothing to do with the food industry, she founded **Sweet Impact Chocolates** in 2013 as a way to raise awareness about child trafficking and slavery in the cocoa industry. Simple fudge making morphed into crafting beautiful works of art, via hand-painted bonbons, bars and more. Kristi and her family have happily called Kenosha home for the last 11 years. Currently operating out of a licensed kitchen in her home basement, Kristi dreams of having a real chocolate shop some day.

The mother-daughter duo behind **Square One Soapworks** believe that what we put on our bodies is just as important as what we put in them! Guided by the idea that the ingredients should already exist in nature—not developed in a laboratory—their handcrafted, small-batch soaps are intentionally subtle in scent and more muted in color because they are free of synthetic fragrances, harsh dyes and harmful chemicals. Ingredients are derived from the earth: essential oils for scents and herbs, flowers, spices and clays for the colors—to create naturally beautiful and nourishing products.

Ken Voigt Photography features photographs that capture the beauty of nature and what God has created for us to see and enjoy.

Kathy Morales is a printmaker, graphic designer, watercolorist, and coffee lover/researcher. She is a contributing writer for *Christ Hold Fast*, *Higher Things*, and co-author of *The Sinner Saint Lenten Devotional*. **Catherine Borck** is a Milwaukee artist who specializes in drawing cute things. Her prints feature fauna, flora, and food, and use bold lines and colors to brighten up your space and (hopefully) make you smile.

Hands working together to support economic self-sufficiency and Christian education in Thailand is the mission of **Thai Village**.

Thom J. Ertl Designs is contemporary urban assemblage. It incorporates, unexpectedly combines, and re-purposes common everyday items into modern, artistic, practical and original home furnishings and interior design. It is furniture, wall art, greeting cards and gift items with a strong sense of whimsy and detail, with a thought-provoking element of surprise. A compilation of over 35 years of artistic experience that includes retail and visual merchandising, graphic design,

and imagery in fashion shows and performance art, Thom J. Ertl Designs showcases *the what was* and turns it into the *what it is now*. It's modern folk art that takes the fork in the road.

Latinx Designer **Esthefanie Lupo** loves to work with different mediums. Raised by a Colombian family, Lupo graduated from MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design) with a BFA in Communication Design. She gets her inspiration from nature and her culture, and is very energetic and loves to be around other artists who are just as passionate. She chooses to work with acrylics and also in digital, and when she is not being an artist, she is running outside or enjoying her plants in her living room with a book in hand. Follow Esthefanie on Instagram to see more of her work: @lupo_designs or @eesmeralda_photo

The story of **Cream City Caramels** began more than thirty years ago when our founder began making caramels for his friends and family. They were delicious then; but after working with the recipe these many years since, they are better than ever! Using the finest ingredients that are sourced locally whenever possible and available in a variety of flavors, you'll enjoy these caramels and their melt-in-your-mouth buttery goodness. In addition to caramels, other products include Butter Caramel Popcorn, and Caramel & Cheddar Popcorn Mix (if you like sweet and salty, we highly recommend that you give this a try!). Our newest product is caramel for dipping, topping & baking, currently available in vanilla, with a coffee flavor soon available as well along with Kentucky Bourbon and Buttered Rum available in time for the holidays!

Luis Pezantaz of **Inti Fair Trade** specializes in hand-made, fair trade jewelry made from organic materials: acai (seeds), tagua (nuts), stone, horn, gourd, silver, shell, and straw. Also selling children's dresses and sweaters, all products are made in Ecuador, and purchased directly from artisans.

Designing and creating are a passion of mine, which reflects my style with thoughtful creation. When I design something for shows and customers, I think about the construction and materials that go into it carefully. I try to put myself in my customers' shoes, and I hope you enjoy my life's work and talk to me about how my items came together. My name is **Nicki Derenne** of **Creative Seams**, nice to meet you!

Hi there! I'm Caitlin of **Lady Catie Arts**, a self-taught artist from a teeny town in Wisconsin, and I'm a fairly new kid on this block. I love to create in black and white with ink and graphite, but watercolors and I are trying to learn a bit about one another, too, and colored pencils and I are pretty good friends. I still believe in the potency of traditional media, and—while I may mix media in my art—none of what I use is digital. I adore doing commissions! A stylized individual or family portrait, a piece of specified decor, holiday-themed pieces, coloring pages, greeting cards—I'd love to make what your imagination sees into a reality!

Katrina Smith is a freelance photographer based in Milwaukee. She graduated in 2012 with a BA in Art from Wisconsin Lutheran College and was a 2012-2013 Artist-In-Residence at In Tandem Theatre's Tenth Street Gallery. Her work has been showcased by Concordia University Wisconsin, Black Box Gallery in Portland, OR, Sunset Playhouse, her alma mater, and other venues in Milwaukee. A native of Owatonna, MN, her photography has also been shared in Faribault, MN and surrounding areas. Katrina's current work reveals the beauty and quirks in ordinary life that often go unseen. Black and white colorization, or lack thereof, best displays the spectrum of shadows, textures, and the drama within. Follow her on Instagram to see more: @katsblackandwhite or @katsmith009.

Hello! I am **Maria Lopez** from **Maria's Gift**. I truly enjoy encouraging others with snapshots of God's creation and capturing unique sights to inspire all who see and read each one. I have been given the gift of photography and my purpose in using this gift is to inspire you to discover your God-given gifts. I create one-of-a-kind gifts for any occasion by interweaving photography with inspirational Bible verses. All proceeds go to the Extraordinary Life Prayer Garden Sanctuary located in Allenton, WI. For more information, stop by my booth or go to mariasgift.net and read all about this exciting initiative! Thank you for your support!

Lynn Kozlowski of **Fabric Arts** likes to "make something out of nothing." She uses remnants of fabric, discontinued drapery and upholstery samples to fashion wearable accessories such as infinity scarves, home decor items like table runners and covers, place mats, pillow covers, and fancy bags of all sizes. Lynn taught first grade in Lutheran and West Allis public schools for 39 years, until she retired in 1997, and since then has been able to devote time to her hobbies. Lynn's greatest love is music. She is an accompanist for the Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee, and the head organist at St. John's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, where she organizes (and frequently performs in) a successful free noontime concert series on the third Thursday of each month September through May.

Owner of **Cathy's Art, Crafts, and Clays**, **Catherine Slusher** is a local artist from Milwaukee who specializes in decorative painting, ceramics, watercolor art, and decorative wood designs.

Susan Stachelski, of **Allegro Adornments**, has been making beaded and metal jewelry pieces since 2000, and offering them for sale at artisan fairs for almost as long. She designs and creates handcrafted jewelry and accessories in both Steampunk and traditional styles, as well as seasonal (Christmas/Winter) jewelry and accessories. Specializing in Steampunk pieces using gears and vintage watch parts set in resin-filled bezels, each piece is unique. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, bookmarks, key chains and belt buckles are just some of what you will find among her accessories. You're sure to find the right gift for a special person, or even yourself!

At **Maxx's Munchery**, this mother and daughter team promises all treats are 100% made from scratch, by hand, in their own kitchen in Milwaukee. Their treats are wholesome, healthy, and oven baked, and they use certified organic ingredients—no preservatives, salt, corn, harmful oils, by-products, soy, additives, fillers, synthetic vitamins or artificial dyes. You can pronounce every ingredient used, no big fancy chemical words here! All packaging is environment friendly, and their three rescues—Rocky, Molly and Tao—taste test every treat (and love and anticipate them with every batch made!). Your lovable pooches deserve wholesome, high quality treats and they bake just that. Maxx's Munchery Oven Baked Pet Treats was created in loving memory of beloved Maxx, the family dog who brightened their lives for nine amazing years.

Cream City Creations offers handmade, chunky leather and metal bracelets and rings, along with an array of handmade knitted items: dishcloths, hats, and cowl scarves.

Denise Borda is a semi-retired art teacher who is finally doing what she loves to do—painting portraits!

Jack & Joie is a design company owned by two sisters, one in Milwaukee and the other in Manhattan, with a seasonal retail shop in Fish Creek, WI. Everything Jack & Joie offers is designed by them and either hand-crafted or responsibly made in the USA or in Europe. Paying homage to their beloved grandparents, the company was named after and inspired by their grandfather Jack's ability to find beauty in ordinary things and by their grandmother Joie's remarkable talent with needle and thread. Jack & Joie embodies the creative spirit and treasures the handmade. One-of-a-kind designs with thoughtful craftsmanship ensure quality goods that will bring happiness to you and your home.

As a registered nurse and mother of five, **Kelly Lee's** goal was to make a high quality, 100% natural, moisturizing product for her own family's personal use. It turned out so good she can't help but to share it with the rest of the world! While she can't make health claims about her product, several people who have share that they have seen huge improvements in their skin conditions: eczema, psoriasis, keratosis pilaris, all which previously only responded to prescription creams, ointments, or lotions. If you don't have any skin conditions, you can still enjoy the benefit of healthy naturally moisturized skin!

Essential Raw Naturals specializes in handmade small batches of cruelty free, 100% organic vegan body and beauty products, with zero GMOs, synthetics, chemicals, or preservatives.

Thank you for supporting these artists at this year's festival!