Each month, ArtsGreensboro brings you stories about artists, arts organizations, and individuals whose lives are infused with creativity. Join us in celebrating our vibrant city.

ArtsGreensboro is dedicated to elevating the arts by creating awareness and promoting the vibrancy of our city; amplifying the impact the arts have in building strong and thriving communities for all citizens; and supporting arts organizations, artists, and teachers through grants, shared services, and technical assistance. For more information visit artsgreensboro.org
ARTIST IN FOCUS

ALYCE BARRETT, ARTIST

New Orleans-born self-taught artist, Alyce Barrett cares about her adopted Greensboro community and works to make a difference through volunteerism but also through her art. Since arriving in 2014, she has been involved with philanthropic organizations - currently serving as chair of Women United of United Way. Last year, Alyce founded Circle Foundation NC, with a mission to champion menstrual equity in Guilford County. The foundation is a volunteer-only, non-profit which provides free hygiene products to girls and women.

Like her volunteerism, Alyce’s art is inspired by the strength, resilience and grace of our community of women. “Women support and champion one another. I work to show the power and energy in those relationships.” Her paintings, woodworking, sculpture and design tell the story of women’s balance of strength and vulnerability. “I also love being able to partner with local woman-owned businesses in my work.”

Alyce’s creativity and curiosity is fed by her lifetime of experiences in New Orleans and her travels. A couple of years ago, she spent time in the South of France getting inspired with other artists, which help to bring her most recent pieces to life. Her art can be found in New Orleans, New York, Germany, France and were recently exhibited at the Center for Visual Arts. Recently, she has brought her creative point-of-view to a new material, silk. Her line of luxury scarves and art can be found and purchased locally in Greensboro. A portion of the proceeds will support Circle Foundation NC and United Way. You can contact Alyce on social media at @AlyceBarrettGallery, online at azebmode.com, and email at alycebarrettart@gmail.com.
Bel Canto has abundant reasons for singing, not only to grieve for a world wounded by COVID-19 but to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit that will carry us to the other side of the crisis. And for this reason, they have launched their first Virtual Choir by inviting the community to unite their voices with their choir in a virtual performance of Jake Runestad’s ravishing Let My Love Be Heard.

The text is timely and Runestad’s setting beautifully captures our grief ascending to the heavens in hope of a gentle reprieve from our pain. Every voice is beautiful and will add to the power of this virtual performance. And Bel Canto made joining the choir simple with no auditions, and no rejections.

Community members were encouraged to register, and then received sheet music, a rehearsal tracks to learn the music, tips for self-recording using a smart phone, tablet, or computer, and instructions for uploading videos. From there, Bel Canto takes care of the rest!

Although participation in the choir is free, a small gift to help cover the cost of making the final video is welcomed. It costs $22.50 per singer for this project to mix, master, edit each video, and provide a copy of the sheet music to each participant. Bel Canto’s goal is to have 100+ singers, which adds up to at least $2,250. To learn more about Bel Canto, please visit belcantocompany.com.

“Through music we strive to celebrate the entirety of human experience. We sing because song has the power to heal and rebuild community. We sing to express that which neither words nor music can say alone. We sing because, although the experience of these times is sure to leave us changed, we will be no less in need of beauty and music.”
AG MAKING IT WORK

BY CATENA BERGEVIN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF ARTSGREENSBORO

Thank You for supporting the Greensboro Artist Emergency Relief Fund. Because of you, we have raised over $99,500, with almost 1,500 checks distributed so far.

On behalf of the ArtsGreensboro Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, our sincere appreciation to all who have supported this effort. This program has truly been a labor of love, and we are humbled by the tremendous generosity of our community. All proceeds raised are directed to working professional artists living in Guilford County who have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Greensboro’s art scene of galleries, museums, theaters, and music venues – along with the artists, musicians, and actors who fuel them – have filled our city with vitality, innovation, and pride for generations. The cancellation of live events, teaching opportunities, and community work has left many of our creative citizens facing tremendous financial hardship. With your support, we will continue to make a difference during these challenging times.

For more information on how to donate to the artist relief fund, at any level, visit www.artsgreensboro.org or text ARTSGSO to 44-321.

“Thank you for your consistent communication! My wife and I, as well as our little boy that was born today, are very appreciative of all your help the last couple of months.”

- Justin Gerringer (Musician)
I was tasked with writing about a memorable art experience. As I reflected on this ask, I thought about the places I had traveled to. I remembered walks in some of the most beautiful botanical gardens. I remembered strolling through art museums as I admired some of the most stunning paintings. However, none compared to what I realized was my most memorable experience – the day I got lost in the peaceful beauty of my canvas prints.

These prints are simply photographs blown up of flowers my husband took at a garden in Georgia. I stare at them and I find myself relaxing. My shoulders drop, my breathing slows, and I enter into a rest and mindfulness.

This was a new experience for me, so I was perplexed at my response to the photographs; particularly, since that was one of my most stressful days. We are in some of the most turbulent times I’ve ever seen. In the midst of stressful work days and the business of life, I found rest through meditative power as I gazed at those beautiful flowers on my canvas prints.

Prior to this, I had not considered art much. I enjoyed it, but my perception of what art is and what it could do for me did not correlate to a deep connection within me where I could find calm. I understand now art is personal. The feeling you get from it can be extremely palpable. For me, it’s where I find calm in turbulent times.
Why support the GREENSBORO ARTIST EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND?

Because your gift will directly and immediately help our creative citizens in need.

Ways to Give:

- Text ARTSGSO to 44-321
- Give online at artsgreensboro.org/artist-emergency-relief-fund/
- Mail a check to: ArtsGreensboro PO Box 877 Greensboro NC 27402

The Greensboro Artist Emergency Relief Fund launched in March 2020, was initially intended to provide support for unemployed artists through May. With the recent spike in coronavirus cases and the uncertainty of when we can gather again to experience live art, more funds are needed.

Your donation today, at any level, will have a significant and immediate impact. Please give what you can to support artists in need at artsgreensboro.org or click the link in our bio. #artsGSO