
CHANDA KRAFT

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BIOGRAPHY

Chanda Kraft captures landscapes, florals, and wildlife in oil, watercolor, and drawing mediums. Her home studio is on Lake Carlos in Alexandria, MN where she lives with her husband and her two children. One of her earliest memories as an artist was as a child. She had a favorite climbing tree where she would take her box of crayons and draw pictures all over the bark of the tree as far as she could reach. She is an advocate for sustainability and wilderness conservation. Chanda holds degrees in graphic design, psychology, and Master's of Arts in Teaching. She also enjoys teaching art workshops, outdoor activities with her family, fiber arts, pottery, and classical guitar.

ARTIST STATEMENT

A love for nature compels Chanda Kraft's art. Exploring natural settings and creating art from those experiences are restorative practices that bring feelings of connection to the universe, reduce anxiety, and bring her immense joy. She works with oils, watercolor, or drawing mediums, and is inspired by the Dutch Golden Age, Hudson River School, and Naturalism art movements. Her work is a contribution to the growing collection of women's wilderness experiences and brings awareness to conservation needs. Protecting the environment is crucial to preserve biodiversity, clean water and air, and undisturbed places for people to escape modern life's demands now and for future generations.

EDUCATION

2019-2020 Work of Art Series, Springboard for the Arts, Fergus Falls, MN
2019 MA Teaching with Initial K-6 Licensure, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN
2016 BS General Psychology, Capella University, Minneapolis, MN
2003 AAS Graphic Design and Communication Arts, DMACC, Ankeny, IA
2000 Biological Premedical Illustration, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

2016-20 Kaddatz Gallery Teaching Artist, Fergus Falls, MN
2017-19 Substitute Teacher/Student Teacher, Alexandria Public Schools, Alexandria, MN
2016-17 Substitute Teacher, Battle Lake Public School, Battle Lake, MN

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

2021 Art deTour, juried studio tour, Alexandria, MN
2021 150 Sails Up Project, 20" custom painted sailboat for Bremmer Bank, Detroit Lakes, MN
2021 Inspired to Paint: Finding peace through Painting, Pink Ladies, 12 x 9' Oil. Outdoor Painters of Minnesota Online Competition and Exhibition
2020 Lake Carlos State Park: Summer 2020, Studio K solo exhibition at Kaddatz Gallery, Fergus Falls, MN
2020 Foot in the Door 5: The Virtual Exhibition, Minneapolis Institute of Art

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

2009-16 Sunflower Patch Farm, Underwood, MN
2006-07 Freelance Illustrator, Kaplan K12 Learning Services, New York, NY
2005-06 Graphic Designer, North Star Publishing, International Falls, MN
2003-05 Graphic Designer, Next Day Gourmet, New Brighton, MN
2001-03 Graphic Design Intern, Iowa Realty, West Des Moines, IA

AWARDS & GRANTS

2021 Creative Support for Individuals Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board
2021 Creative Community Leadership Institute Cohort, Fargo, ND
2019 Quick Start Grant, Lakes Region Arts Council, Fergus Falls, MN
2019 Artist Cohort, Lakes Region Arts Council, Fergus Falls, MN

ARTS BOARDS

2019-21 Elected Board Member as Marketing Chair, Alexandria Arts Guild, Alexandria, MN

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2021 American Women Artists
2021 Outdoor Painters of Minnesota
2019-21 Alexandria Arts Guild
