



Garden Party

**ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks
& Alvin H. Butz Gallery Guide**

Mandy Martin
Summer Dreams

ARTSQUEST
imagine that

**BANANA
FACTORY**
ARTS CENTER

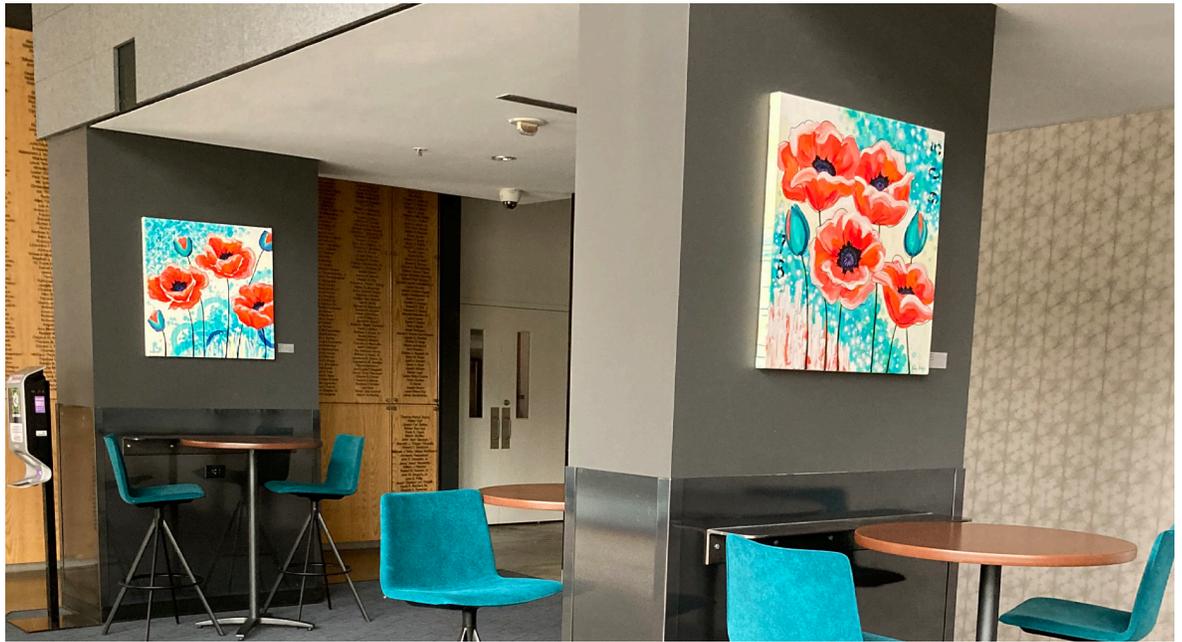


About the Artist

Mandy Martin is an award-winning emerging artist whose paintings feature floral and landscape imagery. She creates vibrant paintings to capture the imagination and bring a sense of joy and delight. It is Mandy's hope that her work will inspire viewers to look more carefully at the world around them, to discover beauty in unexpected places, and to take care of the earth.

Mandy resides in beautiful Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the wildflowers and rich botanical landscape of the region inform her paintings. Mandy is also a beach lover and enjoys escaping in the winter to lush Caribbean destinations which also inform her color palettes and landscape work.

mandymartinart.com | [instagram.com/mandymartinart](https://www.instagram.com/mandymartinart)

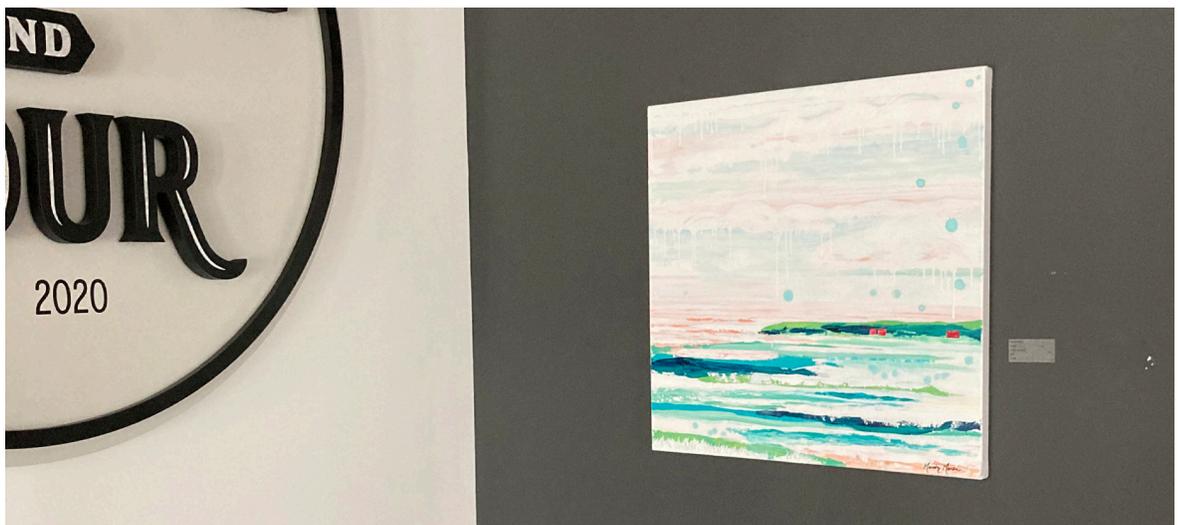


About the Exhibition

"Nature is the main muse of my acrylic paintings on canvas, which feature bold florals and bright color palettes. Now more than ever, those vibrant colors bring a sense of light and hope in a world that can seem uncertain and dim. I practice intuitive painting, and my work explores layers of texture, rhythm and movement as I interpret it in the natural world.

This collection was inspired by the idea of sun-drenched summer memories. I painted most of it during the long pandemic winter, when many of us are prone to seasonal depression, as an antidote to the bleak landscape. I wanted to infuse the paintings with joy! It is my hope that this work will bring a sense of lightness as we look forward to life after the pandemic"

-Mandy Martin



Artist Q&A

When creating the Musikfest poster painting, you described the evaluation of the painting along with your mood and reactions during the summer of 2020 and the continuation of the COVID 19 pandemic. Does the collection work in this exhibition pick up on those same thoughts and feelings? Is there a connecting theme or emotion you find present in this current collection of work?

My goal was to channel hope and light in this collection of work. For me, warmer weather and more sunlight always improves my outlook! I worked on many of these pieces during the winter. We had so much cold weather and higher than average snowfall, and I just kept channeling warm summer vibes.



Don't You Worry About a Thing

What medium(s)/technique(s) do you use to create your artwork? You have mentioned that you practice "intuitive painting"- can you define this more? What does it mean to you personally?

I work with acrylic paints on canvas. Acrylics have come a long way and the colors are so vivid! I use fluid acrylics to create washes by mixing them with water. Paint gets dripped and splashed on the canvas at different points in the process, and there are many happy accidents! I also use heavy bodied acrylics when I want to build texture in the com-

position. Intuitive painting is about tuning into your own unique creative process while releasing attachment to the end result. It is focused on mindfulness and the act of spontaneous expression. When I paint intuitively, I allow every layer of paint to inform what happens next.



Dreamcatcher

The bright, bold colors that you use in your work really stand out to me as a viewer. How is color important to the themes within your work?

Color psychology fascinates me. Paintings from my earlier practice tend to be darker, and more recently I have become interested in creating paintings full of light, uplifting colors. We all need a sense hope now more than ever.

Is there a connection between the themes in your work and the way you make your art?

I paint what inspires me, and I've always loved flowers. They are amazing, extravagant vessels that exist solely to propagate their species. I find them miraculous! Poppies are my favorite, and they bring joy to me while I work on them. My other subject matter includes a lot of references to beaches that I frequent as much as I can. All of these natural themes lend themselves to my expressive method of painting.



Serenity

How do you know when a particular piece is finished?

It is tricky to know when a piece is finished. I step back from the canvas frequently to survey it from a distance and make sure I don't overwork the canvas. When there is no longer anything calling me into action, I know the piece is finished.

Can you discuss three artists whose work has inspired you & why (Contemporary or Historical)?

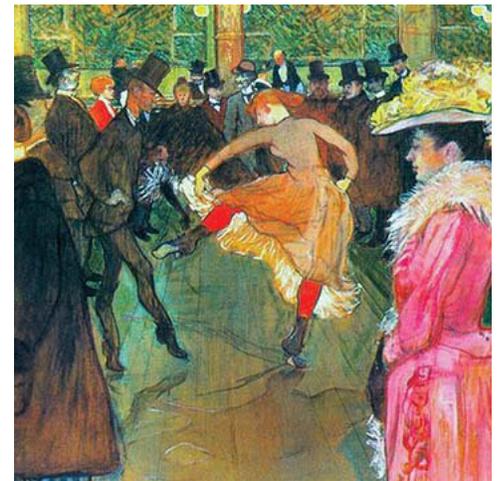
It is really hard to narrow down my favorite artists to just three, but here are a few that come to mind.

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec is a favorite of mine. His graphic style and unexpected use of color are just delightful. In particular I enjoy his posters and his paintings of people dancing, such as "Ball in the Cabaret."

One of my favorite contemporary artists is Mersuka Dopazo. She works with collage materials to create wonderful, whimsical works on a large scale. I enjoy the way her work is both richly layered and also light and airy.

A third present day artist I admire is Gee Gee Collins. I love her bold, thick outlines! She takes a cubist approach to her muted figure work, and she also

does really bright abstract paintings of stripes. Collins models how an artist doesn't have to be pigeon-holed into just one color palette, as long as there is consistency within a series.



Ball In The Cabaret, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec



Orange Cermaic, Mersuka Dopazo