

LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Beaudet

By Lexi Shapiro

Jennifer Beaudet is an artist in Kensington, MD. She creates mostly representational oil paintings, which tend to include painterly brushwork and attention to light, color, and mood. She shows her work in local and regional exhibitions as well as provides custom work by commission. Jennifer has also received recognition and awards for several of her paintings in recent years, including Best and Show and First Place awards in prominent local shows!

“As someone who dabbled and explored different art mediums throughout the years (drawing, some painting, sculpture, ceramics), I hadn’t fully committed to creating an art practice of my own until 2018, when I discovered my passion for oil painting” Jennifer explains. As a mother of school-aged children and a career in health communications, I found myself in the situation that many working mothers face: very little time to think about my own needs. It was wearing on me in ways that were impacting my family negatively. I found myself to be quite irritable! Finally deciding to do something for my own mental and physical well-being, I signed up to train for a marathon at the age of 41. It changed my life in ways that I didn’t see coming. I suddenly realized that I could accomplish things that seemed unattainable in the past. I also realized I could make time for myself AND still be present for my family.

So the next logical step was to sign up for an oil painting class, and I was immediately hooked. It’s all about priorities and finding balance. It’s been almost four years of completely immersing myself into a painting practice which has been so fulfilling to me creatively and intellectually.”

Jennifer admits that the balance is still tricky. During the day, she works as a project director on an NIH contract providing services and support to patients in underserved communities in the DMV. Now that her kids are more independent, she finds that she can steal some time for painting before and after work and/or driving her kids to activities. Whatever she can do, she does do - even if it’s early morning or a couple of hours after dinner. Her kids see that she is happy and fulfilled, and she considers that to be one of the best gifts that she can give them!

“My philosophy is to continue to push myself and try new things,” Jennifer states. “It may not all stick, but you have to move beyond your fear in order to know what you can do. I also feel strongly that you have to enjoy ALL the aspects of the work - which I do. Being a professional artist involves so much more than painting. There is a business side, framing, and packaging, marketing, exhibiting, and continued education - all those things use different skill sets and take time. I’m fully committed to all of it and never complain. These are things I ‘get to do,’ and I’m grateful for all of it.”

Her artwork is mostly representational. She does some landscapes, but most of her work contains elements of the figure, and she is spending more time currently concentrating on portraiture. She considers herself lucky that she has had a steady stream of commission requests that have allowed her to apply her interest in figurative work and share it with others. Ideally, at least right now, she would like to find a good



balance between working on commissions for clients and working on her own creative pieces. “If I have a special message, it would be that life is precious, and there is no sense in making excuses,” she says. “Try something new or something that you’ve always known you’ve wanted to try.”

She also stressed the importance of routine in everyday life. “Routine is very important, especially when studio time is hard to find,” she explains. “I usually start a new piece by cleaning up my studio, lighting a candle, and listening to some good music or a podcast. I’m happy that I have a home studio space that is accessible to the family but tucked away just enough that I don’t get interrupted constantly!”



Jennifer’s husband Dave and she bought their home in the Town of Kensington back in 2003 and have grown roots in a community that has been nothing short of special! They have two kids - a fifth-grade boy at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School and a ninth-grade girl at Walter Johnson High School. During the pandemic, they added a black and white Goldendoodle named Ozzy to their family.

“Our whole family is highly engaged in our community events and local government and volunteer on committees and offer help whenever we can,” Jennifer says. “We ditch the car as much as possible and walk everywhere. I think our involvement may be a large part of why our community has provided me with so much support in my art career. The Town of Kensington even enlarged a reproduction of one of my paintings to beautify an area on Armory Ave near some beloved local shops. I love giving back through my artwork and have engaged in shows at local venues. I’m even organizing and curating a rotating exhibit at a new coffee shop that is scheduled to open in 2022 as part of the Modena Reserve senior living project on Metropolitan Ave in Kensington. I’ve also started collaborating with a local shop in Bethesda called Red Orchard and its sister pop-up shop Provisions, both of which carry my artwork.”

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