



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

Master's Showcase 2026

JANUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 8



Artist Biographies and Statements

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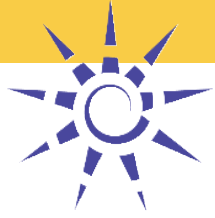
Council on
the Arts



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

The Huntington Arts Council welcomes artists who won a Best in Show and/or Honorable Mention from our 2025, exhibits; Iconography, Black and White, Rooted in Verse.

Featured Artists: Lyrin Bailey, Stacy Bogdonoff, Justyna Dawidowicz, Deirdre Faughey, Bill Grabowski, Jeffrey Grinspan, Anny Claude Lamsifer, Bernice Rausch, Jo Wadler, Despina Zografos.



Lyrin Bailey



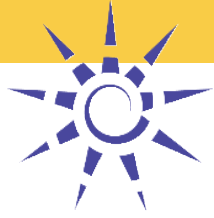
Aello the Torment of Phineus
Mixed Media, 14" x 20"
NFS



Forlorn
Mixed Media, 11" x 17"
\$2,500



Isle of Aea
Mixed Media, 17" x 11"
\$2,500



Lyrin Bailey

Artist Statement:

My work explores the delicate weave of mythology, culture, and heritage. Serving as a bridge between the ancient and the contemporary. Through ink and acrylic, I explore the stories that have shaped us. Pulling the threads of shared narratives that transcend time and geography. Mythology is not merely a collection of old tales, it is a lens through which we can understand the human condition, our fears, desires, and aspirations. Drawing heavily from myths and folklore, I reimagine these themes to highlight their relevance in today's world. Stories that were once whispered around fires and passed through generations embody truths about identity, morality, and the eternal struggle between light and darkness. They remind us of the power of storytelling as a tool for preservation and transformation.

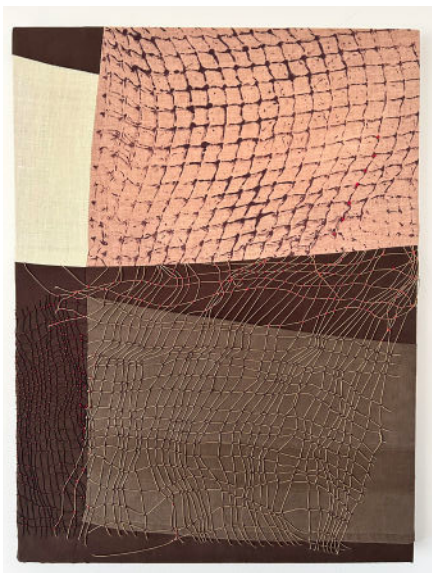
My cultural heritage is at the heart of my practice. I see it as a reservoir of memory, a repository of wisdom, and a guide for exploring themes of belonging and resilience. The symbols, rituals, and oral traditions of my ancestry have found their way into my craft. Enriching layers and grounding it in a sense of belonging. I aim to honor my roots while creating a dialogue that invites viewers to reflect on their own. I am especially drawn to the darker aspects of these myths, the monsters, the tragedies, and the unspoken truths they unveil. My work gives these elements a contemporary voice. Challenging viewers to confront the shadows within themselves. The use of bold contrasts, textures, and a limited color palette enhances the evocative nature. Creating visual metaphors for the dualities of existence: chaos and order, fear and courage, despair and hope. Ultimately, my goal is to create work that resonates on a deeply personal level while tapping into universal experiences. I want my pieces to act as both a mirror and a window. Preserving the legacy of storytelling while fostering a space where we can collectively explore who we are and where we come from. A reflection of our shared humanity and the profound beauty of myth and culture. Each piece is an invitation to journey through time, to reconnect with forgotten tales, and to find meaning in the echoes of our ancestors.

Bio:

Lyrin "Rin" Bailey is a Long Island-based artist and tattoo artist whose work dives deep into the realms of folklore and myth, capturing the essence of worlds both ancient and unknown. Her work, at a glance, dark and whimsical, seeks to illuminate the unseen, inviting viewers into spaces filled with enchantment, symbolism, and mystery. Every piece she creates aims to weave a story that feels both bewitching and raw. With a versatile skill set, Rin masterfully blends various styles and mixing a multitude of mediums and materials. Her subject matter spans an impressive spectrum, from deities and figures of legend to botanicals. Blending elements of nature and the subtle echoes of pop culture. Whether tattooed on the body or an art piece, her work embodies the connection to the mysteries. As a professional tattoo artist, Rin has committed her career to bringing forth magic into the tangible world. She approaches each piece with meticulous attention to detail, layering symbolism that resonates with those who seek a deeper connection to the unknown. Her craft is not just a profession, it's a mission to conjure these narratives and offer them to others as sources of wonder, reflection, and exploration.



Stacy Bogdonoff



They Moved to England
Mixed Media, 27" x 20"
\$2,000



But, why?
Mixed Media, 30" x 24"
\$2,000

Artist Statement:

I am a mixed media artist working primarily (but not only) with fiber, textiles, and paper. Layering clichés and stock phrases, I say, "I keep three balls in the air at once"-and-"work at the intersection of media, process, and concept".

The 'media' is usually humble, accessible, sometimes unexpected, and often overlooked: recording tape, paper covered florist wire, amber shellac, cotton percale sheets, the discarded back of stained quilts, used laundry bags, sun bleached curtain lining, rust, and oil stained paper bags (preferably run over.)

The 'process' is very old-school and analog, not technical, fast/large, or very modern. I call it the 'one thing leads to another thing' process and it happens by working slowly (TV helps) and by noticing tiny details. "Oh. That white edge is dusty and beautiful when I rip the seam instead of using a scissor", sweeping up scraps, browsing tables at flea markets, fingering boxes of oiled steel machine parts, and taking out the re-cycling. Unravelling seams also works. A found box of recording tape became a series; a painter's drop cloth became a unifying system for six new pieces; cleaning up a failed mono-printing experiment became the driver for a small edition; and washing a pillow case that was slashed with a mat knife became the basis of one of my best pieces. I weave, cut, burn, rend, shred, stain, wrinkle/iron, pull, and stitch my media. I slow down, stop, observe, and try to capture the details. I'm drawn to natural fibers and beige is my favorite color. While I work, I think about the death of two parents and a sister in the span of three years. I try to understand lockdown and slowing down. I recalibrate and work to figure out living smaller and



Stacy Bogdonoff

more sustainably, and wonder how children now in kindergarten will handle the world we're leaving them. I grieve past relationships and parse my energy for new ones. I often write very short stories to accompany a finished piece. Some titles are "Gardening", "They Moved to England", "Shelter 25", and "One Less". My art may look abstract but it's not. It's very representational and literal to me.

I divide my time between the busiest city in the world and the quietest, most beautiful corner of New England; I need and appreciate both. Both drive my practice. I create art and consume culture until I don't know where one begins and the other ends. I carry on conversations in my head, keep my hands moving, bring forth one piece of art at a time, and know that I'm leaving a small, but very specific and personal legacy.

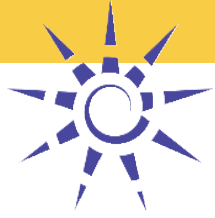
Bio:

Stacy Bogdonoff is a mixed media artist often working with fiber and textiles. She uses unusual materials in unexpected ways, and her current practice includes vintage reel-to-reel recording tape, florist wire, nylon fishing net, silk embroidery floss, amber shellac from the hardware store, painters drop cloth, burlap ribbon, and the thrown away backs of couch pillows.

Her process involves weaving, stitching, ripping, rending, embroidering, folding, unfolding, crushing, printing, knotting, slashing, and scorching her media. She works slowly and each piece includes a small story because she's always thinking, feeling, and making art about "Home, Safety, and Shelter" and how those basic needs change and morph as we age and move through life.

She maintains a messy studio two hours north of NYC and brings smaller, cleaner work down to the dining room table in her smaller city apartment. She recently had a solo show at the St. Agnes branch of the NYPL and is scheduled for a two-person show in Connecticut in June 2026.

Bogdonoff says, "We are on this earth for a very short time and making art is one way of marking our lives and leaving a whisper. It's tangible proof that I thought, felt, sought, and made an effort. Art holds time."



Justyna Dawidowicz



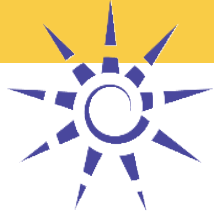
Moon Forging
Mixed Media, 22" x 30"
\$375



Wind Sisters
Mixed Media, 22" x 30"
\$375



Difficult Decisions
Ink, Gouache and Gold Leaf on Paper, 30" x 22"
\$375



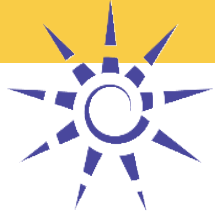
Justyna Dawidowicz

Artist Statement:

My current artistic practice is rooted in multimedia works that utilize ink washes, gouache, acrylic, and gold leaf, primarily on paper and canvas. Thematically, my work is inspired by the star dust theory, which suggests that the elements in our bodies originated from stars that exploded as supernovae. The landscape components depicted in the paintings, such as stone-like figures with human features, serve to remind us of the elemental connectivity that exists in the universe. Additionally, my work explores how our dreams and subconsciousness may serve as gateways to understanding this universal connectivity between us and everything in the cosmos. The cosmic elements in the paintings evoke the infinite possibilities and freedoms that come with being part of something so vast and limitless.

Bio:

Justyna Dawidowicz is a contemporary artist based in Long Island, New York. Born in Poland, she left in 1994 for Montreal, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing from Concordia University. She exhibited at Montreal galleries including Belgo, Art Mur, and VAV Gallery. In 2013 she moved to Brooklyn, New York, continuing her practice in a studio at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. During this period, her work shifted from realism toward more abstract, process-based approaches. Justyna has also lived in Ottawa, where she received the Best Regional Artist Award from the Ottawa Art Gallery in 2017. Beyond her studio practice, she has extensive experience sharing art-making in healthcare settings, providing art therapy services in mental health and oncology units.



Deirdre Faughey



Feel It All
Mixed Media, 8" x 10"
NFS



Depart As Air
Stop Motion Animation with Pastel Drawing
NFS



Titania
Watercolor, Guache, Ink, 11" x 14"
NFS



Deirdre Faughey

Artist Statement:

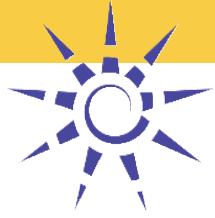
My work explores the intersection of artistic performance and identity: the ways we embody different roles, both on stage and in our inner lives. Drawing from my background as a dancer, musician, and poet, I'm fascinated by how performance shapes who we are and how we understand ourselves. The pieces I've submitted for this showcase reflect different facets of this exploration. My stop motion animated film, with original music composed by my daughter Norah Davison, captures a dancer in movement, examining how the body becomes a language of expression and how identity emerges through physical performance. In the film, we see a ballet dancer only in outline, her identity obscured as she moves in and out of focus: at times rendered with sharp lines and clear edges, at other times blurry and almost disappearing. By the end, her body transforms into water as drops fall slowly from her form, dissolving the boundary between dancer and element, between solid identity and fluid transformation. In my portrait of a girl playing Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I explore the transformation that occurs when we step into a character: the way theatrical performance allows us to inhabit other selves while revealing something true about our own. The subject is my daughter, Norah, who played this role in her high school production a few years ago, making this portrait both an artistic exploration and a personal meditation on watching someone I love transform through performance. While Norah did perform the role, this image reimagines the part and costume with bright colors, face paint, and flowers in her hair, creating a more fantastical vision of the fairy queen. My self-portrait shows myself in a moment of contemplation, turning the lens inward to examine the quiet performance of thought itself.

Through animation, pastel, watercolor, and ink, I aim to capture both the external performance we present to the world and the internal performance of being. Each medium offers a different way of approaching these questions: animation brings movement and time into focus, while traditional drawing and painting allow for intimate, studied observation. Ultimately, my work asks: Who are we when we perform? And who are we when we think no one is watching?

Bio:

Deirdre Faughey is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans stop motion animation, pastel, watercolor, and ink. Her artistic practice is informed by a rich background in the performing arts, including years as a ballet dancer and ongoing work as a musician and poet. This intersection of movement, rhythm, and visual expression infuses her artwork with a distinctive sense of flow and narrative depth. Over the past year, Deirdre has exhibited her work in juried shows across Long Island, where her innovative approach to stop motion animation and her delicate yet expressive use of traditional media have garnered attention. Her pieces often explore themes of transformation and temporal beauty, drawing on her understanding of how bodies move through space and how moments can be captured and reimagined.

When she's not creating in her studio, Deirdre teaches English at Oyster Bay High School, where she brings the same creativity and passion to her students that she brings to her art. Her work as an educator informs her artistic voice, grounding her experimental practice in a deep appreciation for storytelling and the power of language. Deirdre is thrilled to be part of this showcase and looks forward to sharing her vision with new audiences.



Bill Grabowski



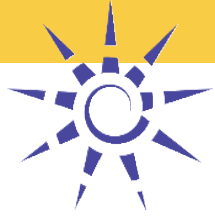
I Found A Face
Mixed Media, 30" x 23"
NFS



Summer's Soft Passage
Acrylic Paint, 38" x 29"
NFS



Imagine Peace
Photography, 38" x 28"
\$1,000



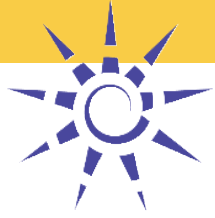
Bill Grabowski

Artist Statement:

I focus on photography and mixed media. I enjoy re-inventing images and places - from now and in the past.

Bio:

I taught art for 41 years with joy and now focus on creation of my own work.



Jeffrey Grinspan



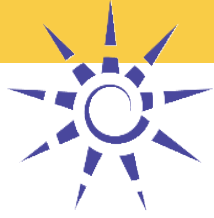
Love
Ink Marker on Paper, 20" x 26"
\$425



Monday
Ink Marker on Paper, 20" x 26"
\$380



Stuck
Ink Marker on Paper, 20" x 26"
\$480



Jeffrey Grinspan

Artist Statement:

I started painting at a young age with no formal art training. I grew up on Long Island and now, living in Commack, New York, I created dimensional shadowbox collages. My recent work, Imperfect Vessels, is an extended series (94 and counting!) of black and white elements that tell both a graphic story and convey a written word message that both compliment and/or interpret the images one sees. The art is my way of combining graphics and words to establish a language all its own.

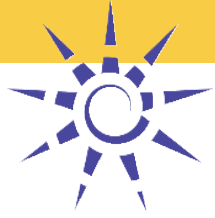
All art starts a conversation. And communication is the way creativity speaks. The ability to visualize the way you see the world and the manner in which you feel the world all begin the conversation we start in our own mind or the one between two people looking at the same piece of art. It is as unique to the piece as it is to the experiences and relationships forged by those sharing their reaction to the art -- real or imagined.

Creativity without conversation is like blowing out the candles on your birthday cake with no one around.

Bio:

Jeff Grinspan is a lifelong Long Island native who grew up in Plainview and now resides in Commack, New York. His art interests span decades and his creative work has evolved from primitive oil floral still life to acrylics, dimensional compositions in the form of shadow box collages to his current work- an ink on paper graphic series titled Imperfect Vessels.

Jeff's art licensing consulting firm Grinspan & Co. worked closely with dozens of artists and designers to help them build successful art licensing businesses and through his consulting firm he was the Program Conference Director for the annual New York City trade show SURTEX from 2003-2014. Prior to the launch of his own company, Jeff was VP of Licensing for Sakura ceramics.



Anny Claude Lamsifer



The Night Mystery
Mixed Media, 22.5' x 18.5"
\$350

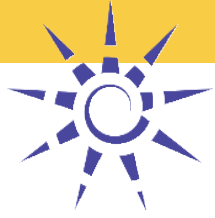
Artist Statement:

As an artist, my practice is driven by the enjoyment of disruption. I am fundamentally interested in tension: the inherent struggle created when materials of distinct origins, textures, and histories co-exist on a singular plane, and the resulting tension when art functions as an agent of transformation.

There are also necessary moments when the process is guided solely by an overwhelming connection to a specific scene, theme, or emotion.

Bio:

I immigrated to the U.S. from France in the 80s and have lived in NYC ever since. A Jack-of-all-trades, I have been an educator for the NYC Dept. of Education while continuing my Art education and earning a B.F.A. I have exhibited and won awards with various art leagues, notably the Art League of Nassau County and the Huntington Art Council. In 2021, my art work was included in a group exhibit of NYC Urban Sketchers at Grand Central Station, and In 2023, at the New Amsterdam Library in NYC.



Bernice Rausch



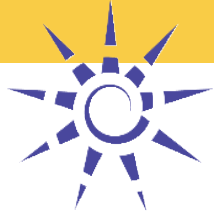
Nature Mystic
Acrylic Paint, 22.5" x 18.5"
\$500



Wintery Stillness
Acrylic Paint, 23.5" x 19.5"
\$500



Madame Curie
Acrylic Paint, 20" x 24"
\$500



Bernice Rausch

Artist Statement:

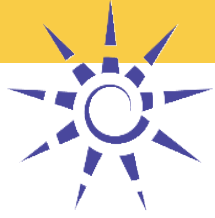
The painting Nature Mystic the spotted hawk accuses Whitman of grabbing. He has to let go of his ego to feel the mystic union with nature & he achieves it. I think we all felt this union with nature something almost spiritual.

The painting Madame Curie I created this for the theme Woman in History for Islip art Council. Then submitted it to Bacca Art Council & won first prize. She was one of the first women scientist ever celebrated.

The painting Wintery Stillness - the theme for this painting was Winter White. I think this painting is good for a Christmas card. I am going to make one up.

Bio:

Bernice Rausch a Brooklynite who graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York City majoring in illustration. She created spot illustrations for National Review & other magazines. Bernice went on to creating slide presentations for Chase Manhattan Bank & other corporations. Now retired & focusing on painting on canvas in acrylic creating landscapes, figures, animals and flowers. Artwork is shown in galleries and Libraries on Long Island & won some awards.



Jo Wadler



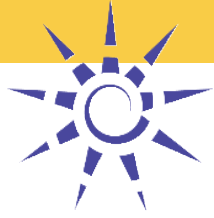
Bouquet
Sterling Silver, Ceramic, Underglaze, 5" x 9"
\$275



Floating Periwinkles
Ceramic, Matte Cobalt Glaze, 7" x 4"
NFS



Matisse Inspired Necklace
Sterling Silver, Ceramic, Underglaze, 5" x 12"
\$250



Jo Wadler

Artist Statement:

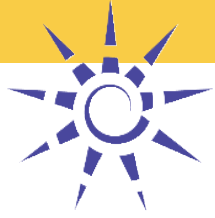
My journey as a jewelry artist, metalsmith, and fiber artist is a tapestry woven from a deep reverence for nature and a lifelong fascination with the intricate beauty of the world around me. Inspired by my daily walks, gardening, and the instinctual allure of shiny objects—much like a raven—I find profound meaning in capturing these elements in wearable art. With a foundation in Graphic Design from the School of Visual Arts (SVA), my artistic evolution has been a fusion of creativity and craftsmanship. Transitioning from graphic design, I discovered a passion for metalsmithing, enameling, fiber arts, and ceramics, each medium offering a new canvas to express my connection to the natural world. In my Huntington studio, I immerse myself in the transformative power of the kiln, where experiments with metal and glass have allowed me to merge my love for enameling and metalsmithing into harmonious, one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces. Each creation—inspired by flora, fauna, and geometric patterns—embodies my commitment to ethical craftsmanship, using ethically sourced stones and metals. My artistic journey extends into ceramics, where I craft a whimsical world from clay, honoring the preciousness of nature's treasures. My art is a celebration of authenticity and individuality, offering wearers an intimate connection to the natural world. Through JW Jewelry Studio in Huntington, New York, I invite you to explore my creations—where each piece is not just jewelry but a narrative of my artistic exploration and a tribute to the timeless beauty of nature.

Bio:

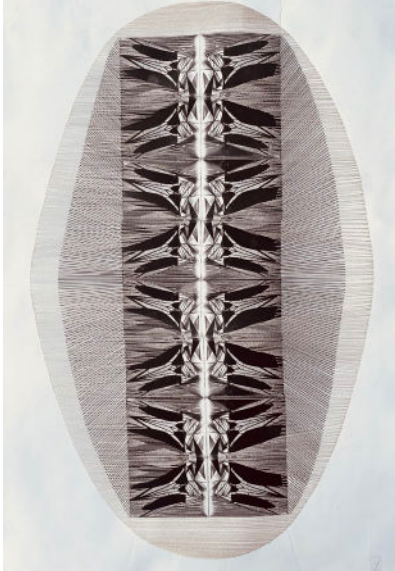
Jo Wadler is a mixed-media artist and metalsmith whose work explores the intersection of sculpture, craft, and storytelling through wearable art. She primarily works with enamel, metal, clay, and fiber—materials she uses to create expressive, one-of-a-kind pieces that push the boundaries of traditional jewelry. Each creation, whether a ring, necklace, or ceramic-enamel hybrid, is treated as a small sculpture with its own narrative and presence.

Driven by curiosity and a passion for experimentation, her creative process is intuitive and idea-driven, often beginning with visualizations that evolve through sketching and hands-on exploration. A self-described “Art ADD” artist, her practice thrives on the energy of trying new materials and approaches, where mistakes are embraced as part of discovery.

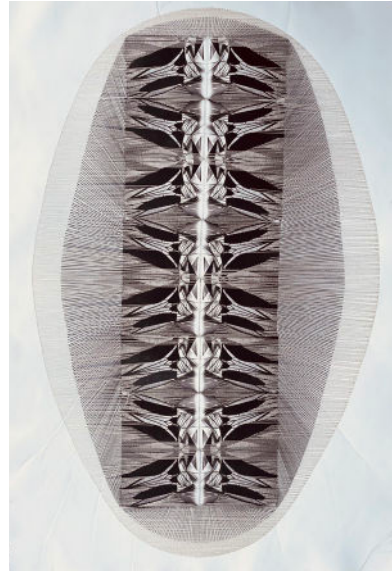
Art has been a powerful tool of expression and healing throughout her life. Overcoming early challenges with communication and self-confidence, she found her voice through art at a young age—and has been creating ever since. Today, she uses her practice to connect with others, often sharing her knowledge through teaching and workshops. Her work continues to evolve, inspired by nature, memory, and a belief in the transformative power of making and creating art.



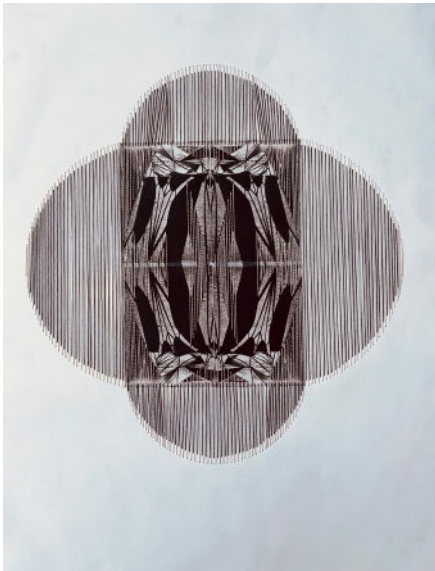
Despina Zografos



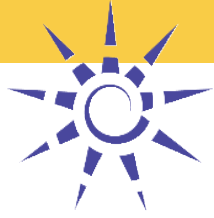
Breathing Shield 01
Solarplate Etching, Black/Silver Thread, 44" x 30"
\$4,800



Breathing Shield 02
Solarplate Etching, Black/Silver Thread, 44" x 30"
\$4,800



Frequency 02
Solarplate Etching, Black/Silver Thread, 30" x 22"
\$1,900



Despina Zografos

Artist Statement:

These pieces are part of a series and the product of my fascination and experimentation with the Solarplate etching technique. Having as starting point a photograph capturing the shadows casted by the light as I lifted the cut paper I was working at the time, I explore symmetry, repetition and pattern and I create my works by combining materials such as black and silver thread.

Bio:

Despina Myriokefalitaki-Zografos was born and raised in Crete, Greece. She is a visual artist working in hand cut paper, painting, cyanotype, video, photography and print making. She holds an MA in Art Education from Adelphi University, Garden City, NY, an MSc in Art Therapy from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland and a BFA in Painting from Athens School of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece. Erasmus program offer Despina the opportunity to stay in Lisbon, Portugal, for six months and study at the audio-visual studio at the Faculdade de Bellas Artes de Lisboa. In addition she studied graphic design at Art & Design College "Vacalo" in Athens and received her BA in French Language and Literature from National and Kapodistrian University in Athens. Despina was a resident artist at the Art League of Long Island, NY and a mentee at New York Foundation of the Arts (NYFA) Immigrant Artist Program.

Awards include: Honorable Mention, Voice & Vision, NYSATA Members, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY, Best in Show, Black & White Exhibition, Huntington Arts Council, Huntington, NY, Elizabeth Morse Genius Award, NAWA 135th Members Exhibition, One Art Space, NYC, 2nd place, The Art of Layering, NAWA, Honorable Mention, 60th Long Island Artists Exhibition, Jeanie Tengelsen Gallery, Dix Hills, NY.

Group exhibitions include: Black & White, Huntington Arts Council, Huntington, NY. Long Island Biennial 2022, Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY, In/Between 2023: Lush Friction, NYFA /IPA, Lives Arts Gallery, NYC, Art on Paper Art Fair, NYC, Wood and Paper, WAH Center, Brooklyn, Undercurrents, Ely Center of Contemporary Art, ECOCA, New Haven, CT. Despina exhibited her work at the Other Art Fair in Brooklyn and at the Global Virtual edition of the Other Art Fair both presented by Saatchi Art. Despina's work has been featured at Women United Art Magazine, Suboart Art Magazine and NAWA Now, Online Magazine. Despina lives and works in Garden City.