



# PET PORTRAITS ARTIST BIOS

In partnership with



## ALLI VAN GRUEN



**INSTA @ALLIVANGRUENART**

Alli van Gruen is a contemporary Canadian painter of animal portraits and autobiographical figurative work. Alli divides her time between her successful pet commission business and her figurative work, which touches on the significance of family and the memories that are triggered when we step back in time. Alli lives in Whistler, BC with her family and her dog Bea. Her days are filled with spending time with family and friends, exploring the outdoors and looking for creative inspiration. Her work can be found in Whistler and in many private collections in Canada, Europe and New Zealand.

## ANETTE EFFE



I am a farm girl at heart and it shows.

## AMY BARRETT



**INSTA @VIVALABADGER**

Amy is British artist specialising in colour and black and gray realism. Her work is a clash between cuteness and creepiness as she likes the combination of sweet and scary. She is also a bit of a film nerd so loves to paint characters from her favourites such as Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. Animals and creatures are her absolute favourite subjects when creating a piece. Amy's main mediums are pencils and oil paint.

## BEA SEARLE



Animal lover and nature lover, Whistler artist Bea Searle has painted mainly in acrylics since her introduction to painting through many workshops.

## BEA GONZALEZ



Bea's subject matter ranges from landscapes to portraits, and the local mountains and lakes of the BC Sea to Sky country are a constant source of inspiration. She loves to hike and travel and is never without her camera, ready to capture the appeal of light, landscape and culture.

## BECKY MASON



**NORTHERNFLAREE.COM**  
**INSTA @NORTHERNFLAREE**

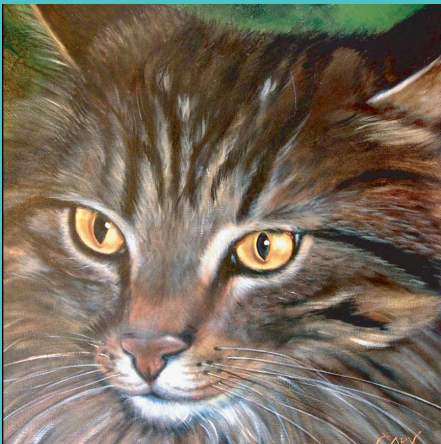
Becky is a pyrography artist living in Whistler, going by the name of Northern Flaree. Pyrography, also known as woodburning, is the art of using heat and applied technique to create unique pieces. She currently specialises in pet portraits and landscapes.

## BRIDGET DUCKWORTH



Bridgette enjoys painting with a small group and a bottle of wine

## CARY LOPES



**INSTA @PAINT.WITH.CARY**

Cary Lopes, an artist with a diverse creative background, new she wanted to pursue some form of art at a very early age. After relocating to Canada from Hong Kong, Cary and her husband Paulo founded a company 'Paintertainment' focused on crafting unique costumes for the event industry. During Covid the event industry died, she began teaching art via Zoom. As well as teaching Cary does do a lot of commissioned art of various topics, but her pet portraits are there at the top of the list.

## CAT ROY



**INSTA @CATMROY\_ART**

Cat's favourite weapons of mass creativity are pen and ink, but she also works in acrylic, watercolor, gouache and pyrography.

Restrictions force you to be creative. You can't make mistakes with ink; you just have to work with whatever mark you make and in the end your piece has evolved into something you never imagined at the start. Cat grew up in the Eastern Townships of rural Quebec and drew inspiration from the ubiquitous Catholic Church motifs, graphic novels, nature, music and magic. A road trip brought her to British Columbia, where the mystical energy of the Coast Mountains captivated her. What was meant to be a two-week adventure has now been ongoing since 2009.

She holds two Bachelor's Degrees, in Environmental Studies and Education, and spends her days outdoors, making art and teaching young earthlings in Whistler schools..

## HEATHER WIDEMAN



**INSTA @BRIGHT.AND.TRUE**

Heather is a multimedia artist most recently working with digital illustrations. She is new to the sea to sky community and I am trying to get involved in the art community here as it was a major draw for her to move to Squamish. She had the opportunity to do some pet portraits for people and is, happy to submit a favourite one. The white cat, Scarlett recently passed, so it is an honour to have her in this exhibit!

## KEN MARTIN



**@ART\_BY\_KEN66**

Ken is an aspiring animal and landscape acrylic painter based in Whistler, B.C.

## KAYLEN MCCONNELL



**@KAYLEN\_MCCONNELL\_ART**

Painting pets and wildlife brings Kaylen great joy. When she is out of ideas, her go to for inspiration is her dog, Roxy. She likes to challenge herself with new ideas of how a pet portrait should look. Kaylen mainly paint in acrylic paints and will sometimes draw over her paintings with oil pastels. She is not after a perfect portrait, if she can capture a bit of the subject's essence. She also like when a painting seems unfinished or you can see the preliminary drawing. She prefers the messy and imperfect flaws.

## MOLLI REYNOLDS



**@MOLLI.CREATES**

Teacher by day, artist by night. Molli has been creating in paint, chalk, pencil, yarn, fabric, and whatever else she can find since 1972.

## LAURA HOLZNER

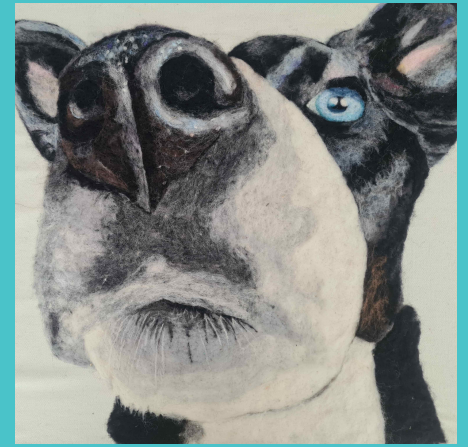


**HOUNDSANDHORIZONS.COM**

**@HOUNDSANDHORIZONS**

Laura Holzner is a passionate pet photographer whose journey has recently led her to the scenic landscapes of Squamish, following six years of full time travel. As the creative force behind "Hounds & Horizons," her artistry centers around dogs, which have been an integral part of her life since an early age. For Laura, there was no doubt that dogs would become her compelling subject matter. Central to her approach is the dedication to capturing dogs in a force-free environment, where their personality truly shines through. Beyond her artistic pursuits, Laura's devotion to rescue work further fuels her passion. Through her lens, she does not only celebrate the individuality of each dog, but also to shed light on the incredible potential of rescue animals. Laura's ultimate aspiration is to create a visual archive of breathtaking images that reflect the sheer beauty of the canines and nature and shows that they are both worth being treated with kindness.

## MARIEKE KERR



**@MARIEKEKERRSTUDIOS**

Marieke is a textile artist based in Pemberton BC. Her work centres around the power of wool and fabric to capture more than just images, to truly evoke connection in people. By carefully using, and often combining, these traditional materials, she focuses her energy on creating entrancing pieces that bring her subjects to life.

Through meticulous craftsmanship and an intimate knowledge of materiality, Marieke continues to craft artworks that leave lasting impressions. Her beautiful works with wool and fabric capture the memories of the past, or give thought to the future.

## MARY -MARGARET PILLING



**@MARY\_MARGARETMAKES**

## KATY CAMERON



Katy enjoys experimenting with different media and has recently undertaken watercolour painting. The ability to intricately layer colour or to give up control and let pigment spread through the page is a fun learning experience for her.

## RICHARD STEPHENSON



Richard has always loved being creative. He took a long break from it until he was compelled because his friends suffered a terrible loss on one Christmas Eve. Their Riley was taken from them by a car. Richard felt the need to capture him in art form to help their healing process. Since then he has been approached constantly to do this for others. He loves capturing their innocence and essence.

## KEITA SELINA



**INSTA @ARTBYKEITA**

Keita is a mixed media painter living in the mountains of Pemberton BC, Canada. Her artwork is heavily inspired by nature. She loves to explore portraiture, flora and fauna and how spiritual experience and human emotion relate to nature in her paintings. She constantly plays with the juxtaposition of geometry and realism alongside abstract and loose paint strokes to capture and relay the feeling of a subject or a moment.

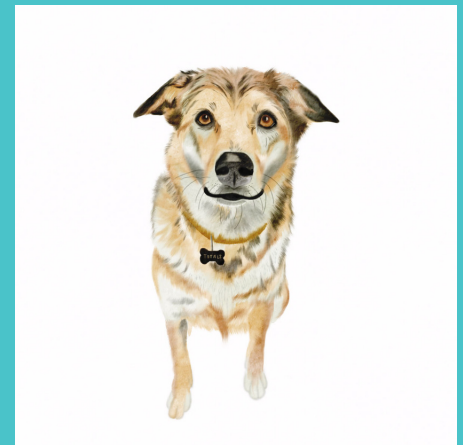
## RENATA ZABLOTNEY



**@RENZEE.COWBOY**

Renata has always been inspired by horses. The very first drawing she ever did was of one, and they have been inspiring her ever since—especially the ones she gets to meet, and express their character through this medium.

## LAURA PRIOR



**@LAURA.JAYNE.LETTERING**

With an academic background in Visual Communication and a passion for illustration, Laura began producing hand illustrated greeting cards shortly after moving from England to Canada in 2015.

This flourished into a goal to create artwork & designs for an array of clients; focusing on simple, clean design complimented by illustrations with a traditional watercolour influence.

Laura is often inspired by the natural beauty surrounding us in the Pemberton Valley and particularly loves to feature florals, nature and mountain scenes within her illustrations and artworks. The majority of Laura's work is created digitally and her greeting cards and prints can be found at The Pemberton Collective.

She also accepts commissions for pet portraits.

## SIRA POCOVI



[@ITS\\_1958](#)

Artist based in the unceded Sḵwx̱wú7mesh land. Sira creates digital and acrylic/marker paintings inspired by the mountains and fauna in the Sea to Sky. Let the vibrant coloured backgrounds of her art bring joy to your home!

## WINONA NELSON



[@ALESSANDRA.WINGS.IT](#)

Taqá7el ti qepmíc, or Winona, is a Lil'wat First Nations x Swiss creative who grew up in Lil'wat Nation Territory in B.C., Canada. As an artist, her goal is to provide a variety of creative products that people can enjoy. She creates original artworks but i also loves doing commissions, because bringing someone's vision to life is always a fun adventure and a great way to hone her skills.

## REBECCA MULBERRY



[@RMULBERRYFINEART](#)

“I find myself in nature; I feel most human when I am barefoot, sweaty, and covered in mud; wishing for cold cold water. At times it’s hard for me to see where I fit, in this manufactured world. So I create. I create to feel present; I create to be in control. “I am the master of this canvas! These paints shall do as I command, until I am pleased!” Then, somewhere along the way, a magical little thing happens; I give up. A painting cannot be complete, until I surrender to it, let go of my preconceptions and desires of what it should be, and allow it to become what it is. The greatest gift art has given me is the lesson that beautiful things happen all on their own; they cannot be forced, only discovered. As a child I wanted to make the world a beautiful place, but it already is. Now, it is my mission to remind everyone of that. Our natural home is wonderful and vibrant, albeit fragile. It provides us with all that we need to live a rich and magnificent life, we just need to see it. We just need to surrender to it.”

## SUSIE BENES



[@POSTMODERN\\_EQUESTRIAN](#)

Susie’s creative expression has always been driven by a deep passion for horses, and yet, it took many years for her to realize that making art was an important part of her life. Her education in art history has given her a strong theoretical and conceptual foundation, but her sculpting technique is almost entirely self-taught. It has taken Susie many years to develop her unique style.

She sculpts with ceramic, and also air dry clay, and paper, often mixing mediums to take advantage of each media's strengths. Her quiet, yet gestural sculptures are richly layered with contrasting shapes and textures, often with hidden elements for the curious observer to discover.

Susie likes to push the boundaries of traditional materials and concepts to develop art that both challenges and delights the viewer.

## SUSIE CIPOLLA



@SUSIECIPOLLAART

Working primarily in acrylic medium, Susie's subject matter varies from the poetic, visually textured and semi-abstract themes to colour saturated representational interpretations of landscapes, eclectic cars and bicycles, marine themes and wildlife of the Pacific Northwest region.

Marked by her recognizable style, Susie's paintings have found a strong collector base across Canada and internationally. She is represented by Galleries in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec. She is a Senior Signature member of the Federation of Canadian Artists.

## WIM TEWINKEL



WIMTEWINKEL.COM

As an artist, both in photography and painting Wim wants to create work that either creates a sense of well being through its beauty and design or causes one to think about what is happening in the photograph or painting.

His extensive travels throughout the world have taught him to see beauty in many different places and to look for it in the small details of life.

These are the things Wim wants to record and enhance by isolating them in a photograph or painting, so that they stand by themselves as unique experiences.

## KELSEY BAREHAM



### PET PORTRAITS WORKSHOP

**Learn to paint your very own Pet Portrait with local artist Kelsey Bareham.**

**In this 2.5-hour painting class, participants will create a custom acrylic portrait of their very own pet, with Kelsey's guidance.**

**All equipment is provided and all levels are welcome.**

**Date: Sat Sept 23rd**

**Time : 10:30am-1pm**

**Place: Pemberton Museum**

**\$30 PAC members**

**\$45 Non- members**

**SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE  
TODAY**



[www.pembertonartscouncil.com/petportraits](http://www.pembertonartscouncil.com/petportraits)