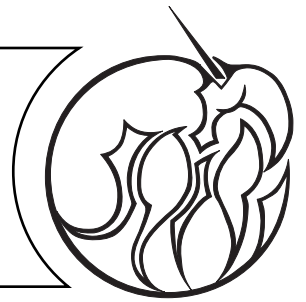


{ the avant-garde }

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME IX No. 2 APRIL 2016

Inspiration POLLINATION

FACEBOOK | TWITTER | INSTAGRAM | TUMBLR

{inspiration pollination}

In 2015, artist Melanie Oliva set out to give a voice to an underrepresented group in her community: pollinators. She began the online community *Inspiration Pollination* as a way to affect positive change in environmental consciousness and responsibility. The project uses art to connect the public with the rapid decline of pollinators — honeybees, bats, birds, plant life and other flora and fauna that keep our ecosystem in balance. Primarily a Facebook group, the community of creators are challenged to post existing or new work that celebrates pollinators while bringing to light their importance in our ecosystem and food production. Members are tasked to keep the message “pollinating” online and throughout our communities.

In her artist statement, Ms. Oliva explains that, “art has the ability to educate and alter thinking, as we’ve seen throughout history. There’s something to combining information and visuals that’s intuitive to the way people learn. A large part of the public are indifferent to environmental issues or have an attitude of ‘I can’t do anything to help’. *Inspiration Pollination* is here to tell them that everything they do, as small as planting milkweed or buying organic to as big as building a pollinator habitat or becoming a beekeeper, helps greatly and puts us on the right track”.



Above: Pollinator Propaganda Series #3, by Melanie Oliva, spray paint and wood block on paper.

{portrait of the artist: melanie oliva}

Most recently an award-winning Creative Director in Chicago, Melanie Oliva uses her honed aesthetic and conceptual skills to advocate for the earth and its inhabitants. She combines realism, impressionism, and design to create pieces that celebrate nature while promoting the importance of conservation. While originally from Nashville, Melanie and her husband have also lived in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Chicago, Illinois, and now reside in Miami, Florida. Ms. Oliva has won over 30 awards for art direction including multiple American Advertising Awards (the Addy) and REGGIE Awards for excellence in campaign marketing.



In 2015 Ms. Oliva started *Inspiration Pollination*, a community of creators who seed ideas about the importance of pollinators. She has pledged to continue to incorporate pollinators into her artwork and exchange ideas with members of the group until all pollinator numbers have sufficiently risen. At Halloween, the Oliva household even handed out pro-bat treats — complete with chocolate that bats most likely helped to pollinate, and “bat facts”.

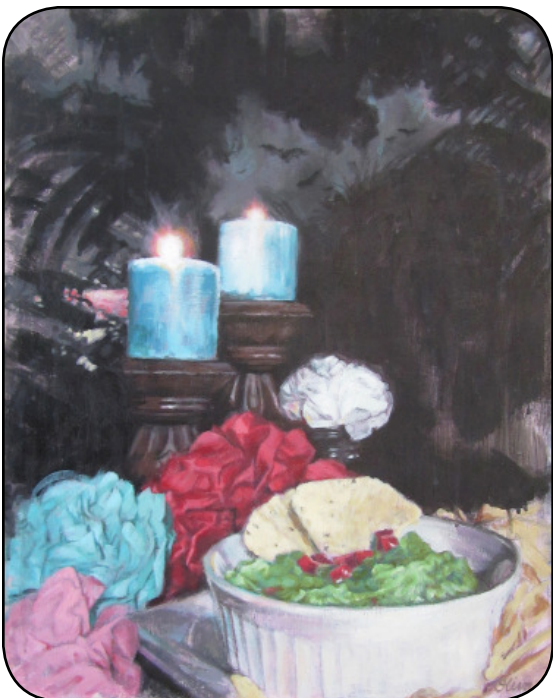
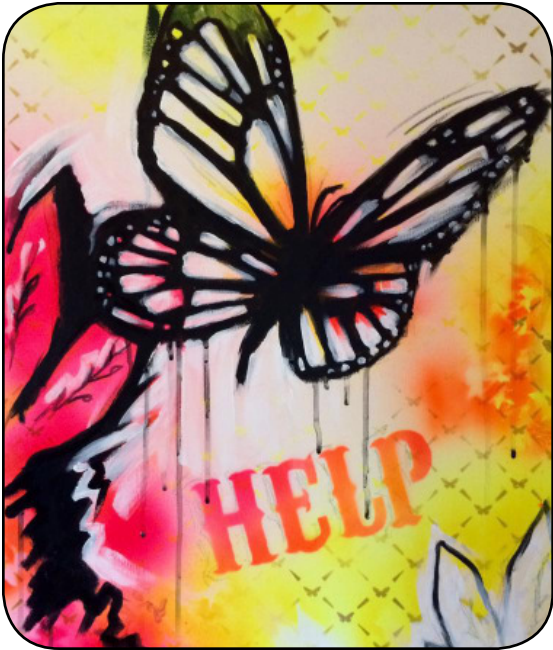
Ms. Oliva and five *Inspiration Pollination* members organized an effort to change attitudes around the Florida Black Bear hunt. The action resulted in the article “Remember Me” published by *Red Flag*, a magazine dedicated to inspiring activism. “Using art to evoke empathy was a last-ditched effort to stop next year’s hunt, but might possibly be the most effective”, says Ms. Oliva. In 2015, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission approved a statewide hunt for Florida Black Bears. As recently as 2012, the Florida Black Bear has been listed on the state’s threatened species list due to a dwindling population.

<http://www.melanieoliva.com>

Clockwise from top left: *Branching Out*, by Melanie Oliva, acrylic on canvas; Melanie Oliva at home with some of her work for *Inspiration Pollination*; Ms. Oliva in 2015, at a protest to stop the Florida Black Bear hunt.



The bear-themed piece created for the article titled *The Greater Green* was displayed in the show *For Everglades* held during Art Basel and hosted by HARRISART. The show was organized to raise awareness around stopping the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) – a “bike path” that will cut through the Everglades, potentially displacing wildlife and affecting water flow.



Clockwise from top left: from *Pollinator Propaganda Series #4* (detail), spray paint and wood block on paper; *The Greater Green*, mixed media on wood panel; *Florida After-Image #1* (detail), acrylic on canvas; *Festival de los Murcielagos*, acrylic on wood. All work by Melanie Oliva.

{powerful pollinators}



{1}



{2}



{4}



{3}



{5}



{6}

{jenny kendler}

Jenny Kendler's work explores human beings' complex relationships with the natural world. She presents her intimate sculptural works, drawings and public projects as a counterpoint to the view of nature as something to be possessed, suggesting instead, it is we who are possessed by nature.

Working at the intersection of art, activism, and the natural sciences, Kendler seeks to complicate the space between 'nature' and 'culture' in order to re-enchant human beings' relationship with the natural world. Kendler's sculptural works and drawings use delicacy, ornamentation and intricacy to echo the subtle and mysterious patterns of the living world. These seemingly fragile works draw viewers in, rekindling feelings of interconnection and wonderment.

Cross-pollinating environmental activism, feminism and nature-geekery Kendler seeks to reinvent 'the Naturalist' for an era of new challenges. She is particularly interested in showing how feminization and 'othering' of the Earth allows for reckless exploitation of natural resources, and how the lack of public consciousness of our animal nature props up the artificial separation between human beings and the rest of the living world.

With her practice, Kendler endeavors to help us rediscover our latent animal intelligences and rethink the enculturated 'frame' of human exceptionalism. It is through this that she believes we will continue the vital process of ecological reconciliation — and reclaim an essential and largely forgotten part of our humanity.

<http://jennykendler.com>

1. *Species Traitor I*, shell & artificial hair, 2. *New Kinds of Words I*, vintage book & raccoon fur 3. *Water Lens*, performance piece.

{allen peterson}

Communities are central to my work, both in the creative process and in the themes that I investigate. My work tends to involve the ideas of systems, structure, cooperation, and interdependence that can describe the formation of a community.

Themes of maps and bees in my work are metaphors for the interconnections that make up a community. Bees are a model of community and cooperation that for me suggests the question of how we humans are like bees, and how we are unlike bees.

In 2007, the emergence of Colony Collapse Disorder, a mysterious affliction that has led to the decline of honeybee population in North America and Europe, gave more urgency to the topic of honeybees. The well-being of honeybees has become a barometer for the environmental health of the planet. The relatively abstract ideas of system and community in my work sharpened into more specific questions of interdependence, and the problem of pollinating the crops that humans depend on for food. I started to raise honeybee hives as a beekeeper, to gain the knowledge of bees provided only by firsthand experience. I have embraced using beekeeping as a sculptural medium.

The work, whether focused on maps or bees or both as subject matter, is an investigation of the nature of the systems and structure that can make a hive-like synergy possible in our own human communities. I see my work as a continued questioning of how well we understand ourselves, each other, and our world.

<http://www.allenpeterson.com/>

4. *Hive Consciousness*, cast wax & honeycomb built by bees, 5. *Lets All Be Beekeepers When We Grown Up* cast iron, enamel paint, beeswax, wood, latex paint 6. *Terrain/Map/Globe*, iron oxide on paper & cast iron.



{resources}

If you are interested in learning more about *Inspiration Pollination*, conservation activism, or more about the issues that have been introduced in this issue of *The Avant-Garde*, please visit the following web links.

Inspiration Pollination

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/903299909744083/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/search?q=inspirationpollination>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/inspirationpollination/>

Tumblr

<http://inspirationpollination.tumblr.com/>

The Florida Black Bear Hunt

"Remember Me", by Melanie Oliva, *Red Flag*, December 21, 2015.

<https://redflag.org/2015/12/remember-me/#>

Stop the Florida Black Bear Hunt

<http://stopflbearhunt.com/>

The River of Grass Greenway

"Outdoorsmen and Native Americans Pair up to Oppose a Bike Path Through the Everglades", by Deirdra Funcheon, *The New Times Broward-Palm Beach*, March 17, 2015.

<http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/news/outdoorsmen-and-native-americans-pair-up-to-oppose-a-bike-path-through-the-everglades-6908796>

“*Inspiration Pollination* is here to tell them that everything they do, as small as planting milkweed or buying organic to as big as building a pollinator habitat or becoming a beekeeper, helps greatly and puts us on the right track”.

– Melanie Oliva, artist & founder of Inspiration Pollination



Melanie Oliva, Artist

Melanie Oliva has designed a business model to help non-profits, entrepreneurs, grassroots organizations, and individuals who are making a difference in the world.

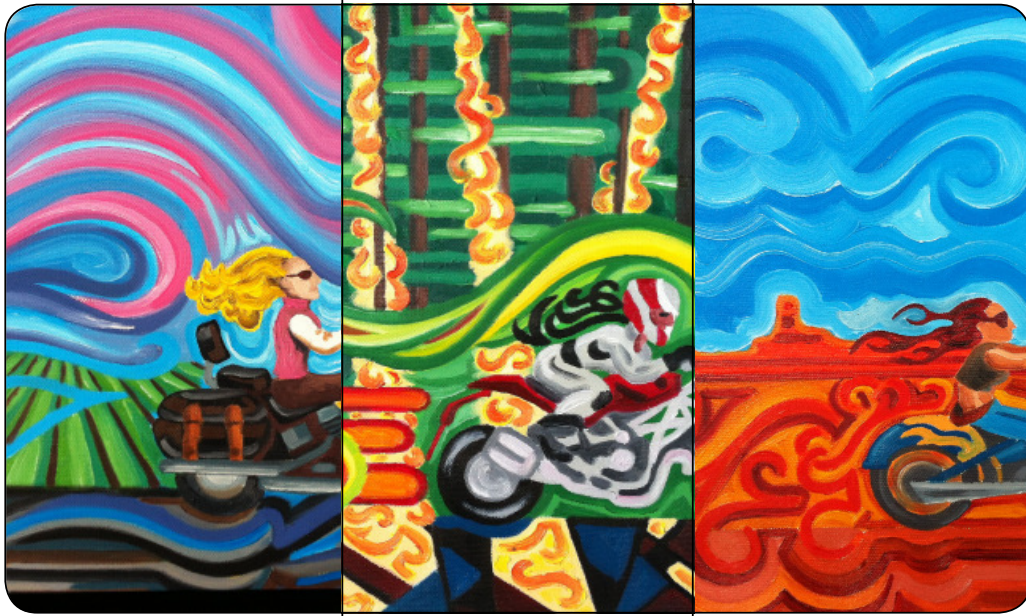
If your organization is in need of marketing, advertising, design, social media, or public relations help, rates for design projects will be cut in half, and PR will be heavily discounted if the project benefits the greater good.

If you are an activist or scientist and have an important environmental cause you would like to bring attention to with artwork and/or need unique ideas for how to solve it, Ms. Oliva will collaborate with you for free or trade. Please visit <http://www.melanieoliva.com> to see previous projects and email oliva.portraits@gmail.com for a quote.

{the avant-garde}

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design

{current exhibitions}



{2wheels
+ motor:} @
a fine art
exhibition
the
national
motorcycle museum



The Worthington Area Art League at the
Worthington Community Center

Through April 29, 2016
345 East Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085

<http://www.worthingtonareaartleague.com>

{all around the town}

The Columbus College of Art and Design, Canzani Center Gallery
(<http://www.ccad.edu/events-calendar-news/exhibitions>)

"John Newman: Possible in Principle", Through March 31

"Dennison W. Griffith: Another World", Through March 31

"Em Rooney", Through March 31

"Robert Melee", June 17-September 10

"Jessica Jackson Hutchins", June 17-September 10

The Columbus Cultural Arts Center

(<http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org>)

"Gathering IV: Once Upon an Idea", March 25-April 23

"Tracey Steinbrook: Columbus Ravines", April 29-June 6

The Columbus Museum of Art (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>)

"Glass Magic: Then and Now", Through May 1

"Melvin Edwards: Five Decades", Through May 8

"Spin Art" Vinyl album cover design, Through August 21

Dublin Arts Council (<http://www.dublinarts.org>)

"Rick Braveheart & Sue King: Two Voices in the Wilderness",
Through April 18

"Davis & Dassai: Drawn Comics", April 26-June 3

McConnell Arts Center (<http://www.mcconnellarts.org>)

"The Governor's Regional Youth Art Exhibit", Through May 22

OSU Urban Arts Space (<http://www.uas.osu.edu>)

"OSU Dept. of Art Design Spring Exhibition", Through April 8

"OSU Dept. of Art BFA Senior Projects Exhibition" Through May 7

The Pizzuti Collection (<http://www.pizzuticollection.org>)

"Us is Them", Through April 2

Ohio Historical Society (<http://www.ohiohistory.org>)

"Power of Painting: Lilly Martin Spencer", Through September 4

The Riffe Gallery (<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe/>)

"Artists of the Winding Road A-Z", April 7-23

The Wexner Center (<http://www.wexarts.org>)

"Noah Purifoy: Junk Dada", Through April 10

{performing arts}

CAPA (<http://www.capa.com>)

"The Southern Troubadours", April 3, Southern Theater

"Zakir Hussain & Masters of Percussion", April 6, Lincoln Theater

"Wild Kratts LIVE", April 15, Palace Theater

"George Winston", April 17, Lincoln Theater

"The Book of Mormon", April 19-24, Ohio Theater

CATCO (<http://www.catco.org>)

"Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike", April 6-24, Riffe Center Studio One

Columbus Symphony Orchestra at the Ohio Theater (unless otherwise noted)
(<http://www.columbussymphony.com>)

"Mendelssohn's Elijah", April 1-2

"Art in Vienna: Mozart to Matisse 3", April 6, Columbus Museum of Art

POPS SERIES: "Ben Folds", April 9

CONCERT FOR KIDS: "Fairy Tales in Music", April 10

"Upshaw Sings Mahler & Golijov", April 15-16

"Mozart & Schubert", April 22-23, Southern Theater

{and beyond}

The Akron Art Museum (<http://www.akronartmuseum.org>)

"Neo Geo", Through April 24

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston (<http://www.mfa.org>)

"Surface Matters", Through April 10

ICA Boston (<http://www.icaboston.org>)

"Walid Raad", Through May 30

The Cincinnati Art Museum (<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org>)

"Etching Revival", Through May 8

"30 Americans", Through August 28

Contemporary Arts Center (<http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org>)

"Do Ho Suh", Through September 11

The Cleveland Museum of Art (<http://www.clevelandart.org>)

"Silent Poetry: Masterworks of Chinese Painting", Through April 24

The Art Institute of Chicago (<http://www.artic.edu>)

"Martin Puryear: Multiple Dimensions", Through May 1

Dayton Art Institute (<http://www.daytonartinstitute.org>)

"Fractured Forms", Through April 24

Detroit Institute of Art (<http://www.dia.org>)

"Dance! American Art 1830-1960", Through June 12

Indianapolis Museum of Art (<http://www.imamuseum.org>)

"Jacco Olivier: Liquid Painting, Liquid Time", Through February 12, 2017

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (<http://www.lacma.org>)

"Diana Thater: The Sympathetic Imagination", Through April 17

Minneapolis Institute of Art (<http://www.artsmia.org>)

"State of Art: Discovering American Art Now", Through May 22

"Guerilla Girls@Mia" Through April 4

Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC (<http://www.metmuseum.org>)

The Met Breuer is now open

"Vigée-LeBrun: Woman Artist in Revolutionary France", Through May 15

Museum of Modern Art, New York (<http://www.moma.org>)

"Marcel Broodthaers: A Retrospective", Through May 15

National Motorcycle Museum (<http://www.nationalmcmuseum.org>)

"2 Wheels + Motor" Through May 2017

New Orleans Museum of Art (<http://www.noma.org>)

"Self-Taught Genius", Through May 22

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (<http://www.cmoa.org>)

"The Propeller Group", Through April 25

The Warhol, Pittsburgh (<http://www.warhol.org>)

"Michael Chow aka Zhou Yinghua: Voice of My Father", Through May 8

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.sfmoma.org>)

Closed for expansion: Opening May 14

The Toledo Museum of Art (<http://www.toledomuseum.org>)

"Indigenous Beauty", Through May 8

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (<http://www.nga.gov>)

"Louise Bourgeois: No Exit" Through May 15

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