**2021 Ottawa County Art Trust Artist Bios**

**AAE Russell** - Amy is a photographer and digital artist whose work explores contrast, light, color & consciousness. www.aaerussell.com

**Tom Saltsman** - Tom is an artist now living in Grand Haven, previously from Birmingham, Ann Arbor, Clinton, Fountain Hills, AZ and Salt Lake City, UT. He currently paints in acrylic and is also an accomplished woodworker.

Although his background is not formally in the arts, he has always been engaged in the creative process and the fabrication of sculpture, furniture and more recently, paintings. Tom’s education includes psychology, economics, computer science and project management. None of which has beans to do with the creative pursuits with which he is now engaged in. When painting or woodworking, Tom seeks to create pieces which evoke a sense of harmony, familiarity and sometimes maybe just a touch of discord. His paintings are primarily inspired by natural landscapes in semi-representational works derived from randomized patterns.

**Emily Kimball-Wells** - Vibrant hues and bold brushwork using oil paint. I’m inspired by the memory of something rather than the exact replica of what was seen. Dive in and swim, risks are always worth it. Even if you only learn from it. My personality shows in my art with the use of decisive and confident strokes.

**Alla Dickson** - Alla is Belarus-American self-taught artist, residing in Zeeland, MI. She immigrated with her two daughters from Siberia to Holland, MI, in 1996 due the hardships of the Soviet Union collapse. She has master’s degree in Languages and Education. Alla has been working at the local adoption agency for more than 17 years. At the age of 52 she has made the decision to change her career and devote her life now to her second passion-art, seeing this change as a continuation of her service to the community.

This exhibition is a reflection of her life journey, that has been impacted by the life changing experience when she was ten years old: her family move from Siberia to Egypt due to her father’s military service. That’s where she made her lifelong decision to study languages in order to travel around the world and deeply understand people with different cultural backgrounds.

She started travels to unknown cultures, first to India, Syria, Pakistan, Vietnam, then expanding to Japan, Australia, Thailand, and many other countries around the world. All the exhibited watercolors have been painted during her travels and have never been publicly displayed. Oil and acrylic paintings have been created in her home studio in Zeeland.

Alla hopes, that this exhibition will motivate viewers to study languages, explore unknown cultures, cultivate better understanding and respect to them. She is a strong believer that art impacts our daily life and builds positive connections between nations.

**Peter Winiarski** – Peter is from Allendale, MI. My medium is photography with a focus on nature scenes.

**Michelle Calkins** - In my work I emphasize quality, integrity and spontaneity. Since childhood I have found solace in the creation of art. It is my gift and I try not to waste it. My media of choice are oil painting, sculpture and photography. For me, the three disciplines borrow from each other making each one stronger!

**Maggie Clifford-Bandstra** was born in Michigan. Bandstra currently lives in Grand Haven with her family. Bandstra completed her M.F.A. in painting at Savannah College of Art and Design in the winter of 2021. Bandstra has a Masters in Educational Leadership from Michigan State University and a B.S. in Education from the Loyola University of Chicago. She has been building her studio practice alongside her full-time job as an art educator since 2004. In the summer of 2020, she left her teaching job to fulfill her lifelong dream of being a full-time artist. In 2014 she started curating pop-up art shows with the mission of helping artists connect with their community. These Networking events grew into the Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective a 501c3. Her paintings are nature

abstracted. The human connection to nature inspires her paintings and pottery. She extrapolates the simple forms and colors that she finds in plant life and the landscape. Using an exaggerated scale, movement, and patterns to deliver a healing message through her work. She is encouraging us to take notice of the beauty in the world

around us. Her work is in many public and private collections. Bandstra also works in clay creating functional and non-functional pieces. Her ceramic works and her paintings encouraging us to take notice of the beauty in the world around us. The unifying undercurrent in Maggie’s work plays with ideas and concepts surrounding nature,

healing, and the human connection.

**Mary Modderman -** Artists past and those still present - can touch your life  and share thoughts - without even being there!  Art is a window to a soul’s deepest secrets - be it painter or viewer.  What color is love, laughter or fear? Color mixes with composition to spark the magic that entices people to touch, remember and even imagine!

My life reflects 71 years lived in Ottawa County. My childhood was a magical one spent within the lovely landscapes of a small farm. Seasons mixed with all sorts of beloved animals and still tease me to remember those times. Warm animal shapes with wagging tails still daily haunt my household and gardens. Lamont’s rich history of stage coaches, Civil War tales, voyeurs and ancient people reminds me that others loved rural things.

My media is a bilingual combination of watercolor, oils, photos and sculpture. I participated in Michigan’s ArtTrain visit to Coopersville in 1993, several residencies at the Franciscan Life Process Center of Lowell, created a barnside mural and cow sculpture for the Coopersville Farm Museum.  I created 4 large animal sculptures for John Ball Zoological Garden’s art events. My paintings grace the homes of teachers, farmers, other artists, lawyers, professors, doctors, the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell and Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City.  They are also featured in the collections of 3 hospitals - Spectrum Hospital’s Downtown Campus, the Metropolitan Hospital of Grand Rapids and Mercy Hospital of Muskegon.

**Diane Haworth** - Two-dimensional painter in oils, acrylics, pastel, egg tempera and watercolor, a printmaker and fabric artist.  Also a three-dimensional artist in wood.

Undergraduate degree in design.

15 years as a professional applied designer of furniture, packaging and consumer products.

25 years as a 2D artist and a designer and builder of art furniture and 18th century furniture reproductions.

A lifetime of creativity and curiosity.

I have taken many courses from nationally known artists including Jon Redmond, Douglas Fryer, Qiang Huang, Doug David and Gil Dellinger to name a few.  I have taught classes in art techniques through Grand Valley Artists in Grand Rapids, MI. I am an active member of Grand Valley Artists in Grand Rapids, MI.  I also paint with Plein Air Artists of West Michigan (PAAWM) year round. I have had art accepted in area shows including the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts regional, Muskegon Art Museum regional, Grand Rapids Festival of Arts, Lowell Arts Council and Holland Friends of Art shows and various Grand Valley Artists shows.