

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CHARLOTTE BASSIN

Charlotte

Since she was little, Charlotte Bassin was always involved in some way or another with art. She loved drawing as a child, doodling as a teenager, and studied fine art in college. After graduation, Charlotte traveled the world while simultaneously building a career as a web and graphic designer.

After settling down and working a 9-5 job, Charlotte started craving creating for its own sake, not for a client or commercial project. "I also realized that when I got married and started a family, I wasn't going to be able to travel as I had during the previous decade (I visited 30 countries before the age of 30). So I started creating artistic world maps to stay connected to the rest of the world and satiate the need to create. That was 17 years ago, and I'm still making world maps."

Charlotte sees beauty and wonder in everything around her, not just in sunsets or mountain vistas but in the details of a dragonfly wing or the texture of paint peeling off the concrete. She has an insatiable need to do something with it, a hunger to create. Art is important to her because it gives her purpose and peace, "As artists, we want to bring all the ideas to life, but we only have one



Humanity IV, Charlotte Bassin, mixed media
Charlotte teaching a world map workshop in 2018.

"Being an artist is no easy task – aside from parenting, it is the hardest thing I have ever done – but it's my calling; I feel like I don't have a choice in the matter. It's my chance to make a difference in this world."

life. We are given a talent, and, I believe, we must do something with it. That's a lot of pressure, but also a gift."

When asked why art is essential to society, Charlotte couldn't have said it better. "Art is important to society because it has the power to inspire and to educate, offering hope and optimism for a better future. Art uses images, words, and sound to evoke emotions, tell stories, and seek truths. It is a form of communication that transcends cultures and time; a universal language that has the potential to make positive change in the world."

Thank you, Charlotte, for your dedication to the arts and being a supporter of Foothills Art Center! ■

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LILY WERLEY

Lily



Lily (left) with fellow education assistant, Kat Sheridan (right) and students during youth summer classes this past July.

"My experience at the Foothills Art Center was very rewarding! The joy and laughter I received from working with the kids at the art camps made quite an impact on my visit. I am from South Texas and come to visit Colorado every summer, and when I was given the opportunity to volunteer at the Foothills Art Center, I immediately accepted. Initially, I started working at the front desk and quickly learned that this would be an excellent opportunity to work on my people skills, and I was surprised by the number of people who came into the art center from all over! I loved the kindness and warmth that was shown towards me while I volunteered at the front desk and the art camps. As for the art camps, it was inspiring to watch these young children use their imaginations to create and design something I would never have imagined! It warmed my heart to receive many of the works that they created as a personal gift. As a new volunteer for the art center, I am delighted to have been a part of the kids' lives and look forward to seeing them next year."

If you are interesting in volunteering call us at 303-279-3922 or email us at ainsley@foothillsartcenter.org! We'd love to have you!

MORNING START



Left: Andi Burnum, our first Morning StArt Artist. Right: Our most recent artist, Judi Mitchell

Jointly sponsored by Golden Public Art Commission, Morning StArt is a wonderful one-hour coffee program for local artists and appreciators of the arts. It's a great way to know your community and receive updates about the work of Foothills Art Center and the public art commission. Over the past year, we've had over ten local artists share their work with us. We had excellent conversations about collage and process with Andi Burnum and Charlotte Bassin, dove deeper into sculpture with Judi Mitchell, and learned about cyanotypes with Leah Diamen. This is just the tip of the iceberg of artists that we've hosted during these coffee talks.

Join us for our next Morning StArt!
Friday, Nov.5 - Julie Leidel, Painter
Friday, Dec. 3 - Rick Souders, Photographer