

Bottlebrush Gallery & Center for the Arts presents:



artist of the month:



**February Feature: Shauna McChesney**

**Renfrew, PA**

**Medium: Watercolors, Pastels, Oils, and Acrylics**



## **Tell us about your journey as an artist. How did you start?**

I've loved art for as long as I can remember, from taking after-school art classes in elementary school, pursuing every art class offered in high school, to earning a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Edinboro University. After starting a family and working as a graphic designer, I reconnected with fine arts in 2019. Since then, I've made time each day to learn, experiment, and grow as an artist.

## **Where do you find your inspiration?**

Most of my inspiration comes from nature, mainly wildlife and botanicals. I love to capture all the colors, textures, and little details you only notice

when you slow down and really look.

## **What is your favorite part of the artistic process?**

Starting a new project and choosing which medium I want to use is the most exciting part for me. Charcoal, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, oils... you name it, each has its own personality, and I enjoy figuring out how that medium brings out a different side of whatever I'm creating.

## **What kinds of stories do you hope to tell with your artwork?**

One of the things I really want to focus on is bringing awareness to endangered and threatened animals. I also hope to offer a sense of encouragement to anyone who feels disconnected from their creative outlet. Setting aside dedicated "art time" for yourself can be incredibly healing, it's never too late to return to what you love.

## **What does your art studio look like?**

Whenever I'm in the middle of a project, it's simply... a mess. I love having a space that's completely my own in which to create, and where I can work on several different projects at one time. Here's a photo of my studio, ready for the next projects.





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Every piece you create helps you learn and grow as an artist so keep doing what you love and showing up for yourself.

— Shauna McChesney

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