

# SUSAN IRISH

Artist

8391 Manse Rd Edisto Island, SC 29438

207-650-2433 artbysusanirish@gmail

www.susaniartist.com



Abstract painter and environmental advocate  
known for bold and energetic scenes of nature.

Each of my distinctively frenetic landscapes carry subtle signs of creeping industrial blight. To appreciate their beauty is to grapple with one's own role in their decay.

I work primarily in oil and cold wax. I believe art making is integral to the human spirit and should be fostered and celebrated.

**Present Self Employed Artist** exploring abstract expressionism. I attempt to converse with the viewer to elicit feelings. I hope that some meaning resonates like a lesson long ago learned.

## AWARDS

*Changing Directions*, Alliance for the Arts, Florida, **3rd Place** January 2023

*On the Edge* Vendue, Charleston, SC **1st place** June 2022

*Spring Fusion* Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken, **1st Place** March 2022

*North Charleston Arts Fest* **Honorable Mention** Art Show 2019

*West Of Westie* recipient for Community Activism, 2015.

Nominated Teacher of the Year by American Legion, 2010

Teacher of the Month West Ashley Middle School November, 2009

Student Choice Award for Yearbook Dedication 2009

Art Key Award 2000 Bridgewater University

## MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Women Artists

Formerly:

Art League of Hilton Head

North Charleston Artists Guild

Charleston Gallery Association

American Society of Interior Designers

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## **EXHIBITS**

*Threshold*, Olive Stack gallery **Listowel Ireland**, March 2023  
*Changing Directions*, Alliance for the Arts, **Fort Myers Florida**, January 2023  
*On the Edge* Vendus Charleston, place June 2022  
*Spring Fusion*, Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken, March 2022  
*Piccolo Spoleto Juried Art Show* City Gallery, **Charleston SC** June 2021  
*Art of Diversity Group Show*, Virtual, Halsey Institute, **Charleston SC** April 2021  
*Treasures of Our Coastal State*, Group Show, Coastal Discovery Museum, **Hilton Head SC** January 2021  
*New Beginnings*, San Fernando Valley Arts & Culture Center, **San Fernando CA** January 2021  
*RAA&M Nation Juried Exhibition*, RAA&M **Rockport, MA** December 2020  
*I See You In My Garden* Park Circle Gallery, **North Charleston, SC** December 2020  
*Inspirational Journey: Small Chapters*, Coastal Discovery Museum, **Hilton Head, SC**  
*Inspirational Journey*, The Vendue, **Charleston SC** October 2020  
*Earth to Sky*, Art League of Hilton Head, **Hilton Head SC** September 2020  
*Gathering In*, Solo Show First Universalist Society, **Franklin MA**, August 2020  
*Some Like It Hot* Group Show, Virtual NAWA MA, SC, FL  
*Shift*, Solo Show Avondale Co-workspace, **Charleston SC** December 2019  
*Flower and Gardens National Juried Show* 311 Gallery, **Raleigh NC** June 2019  
*Piccolo Spoleto Juried Art* City Gallery **Charleston SC** June 2019  
*Sotto Voce* Solo Show Avondale Therapy, **Charleston SC** December 2018-January 2019  
*131 Annual Members Exhibition* NAWA National Galler **New York NY**  
*Bees and Wax* Tubac Center of the Arts, **Tubac AZ** September- October 2018  
*Dialogue In Black and White* Spoleto Festival City Gallery **Charleston SC** June 2018  
*Back to the Garden* Group show Fabulon, **Charleston SC** May 2017  
*We, the People* Group show Fabulon, **Charleston SC** March 2017  
*53, 63, 73* Group show Fabulon **Charleston, SC** January 2017  
*Give Me Some Space* Group show Marshal University **Huntington, WV** 2017  
*Not Your Typical Love Story* Fabulon, **Charleston, SC** February 2016, 2017  
*Flowers for Tony* City Gallery **Charleston SC** January 2016  
*Souvenirs of Summer* Fabulon **Charleston, SC** 2015, 2016, 2017,  
*Spring Forward* group pop up show Burwell's **Charleston, SC** April 2015  
*ArtFields* Lake City Epic Southeastern Art Exhibit, **Lake City, SC** May 2014  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pretty Girls presents *PG 13 Pure White Cosmic Light Feminist Art Exhibit*  
Gallery 827 **Charleston SC** June 2013  
*ArtFields* Lake City Epic Southeastern Art Exhibit, **Lake City, SC** May 2013  
*Gallery 827 Grand Open* **Charleston, SC** March 2013  
*Reoccurring Themes* Alchemy Coffee **Charleston, SC** March-June 2012  
*Multi-Artist* Exhibit Lajos Matolcsy Arts Center **Norway, Maine** April 2009

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### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Stories and Insights: Susan Irish Canvas Rebel* November 2022

<https://canvasrebel.com/meet-susan-irish>

*Cover Carolina Arts Magazine* <https://www.carolinaarts.com/920/920carolinaarts.html>

*Daily Digest; Charleston Artist Uses Prickly Pear* Post and Courier January 2021

[https://www.postandcourier.com/food/daily-digest-charleston-artist-uses-prickly-pear-cactus-from-farm-share-to-make-dinner/article\\_7c732bf0-38a6-11eb-9a37-e3c5a06b6bb0.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/food/daily-digest-charleston-artist-uses-prickly-pear-cactus-from-farm-share-to-make-dinner/article_7c732bf0-38a6-11eb-9a37-e3c5a06b6bb0.html)

*Social Media Connects Artists Across the Globe Through the Artist Support Pledge* City Paper

June 2020 <https://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/CultureShock/archives/2020/06/05/social-media-connects-artists-across-the-globe-through-the-artist-support-pledge>

*Supporting Art in the Age of Covid* West of Free Press June 2020

<https://www.westof.net/supporting-art-in-the-age-of-covid/>

*Charleston Artists Participate in Global Social Media Movement During Coronavirus* Post and

Currier, May 2020 [https://www.postandcourier.com/health/covid19/charleston-artists-participate-in-global-social-media-movement-during-coronavirus/article\\_17a74970-9079-11ea-9f5a-2fddd9d2a9f.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/health/covid19/charleston-artists-participate-in-global-social-media-movement-during-coronavirus/article_17a74970-9079-11ea-9f5a-2fddd9d2a9f.html)

*Have Faith*, City Paper February 27, 2019 <https://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/charleston/artist-teacher-and-arts-advocate-susan-irish-soldiers-on-after-the-closing-of-her-arts-space-fabulon/Content?oid=27098043>

<https://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/charleston/artist-teacher-and-arts-advocate-susan-irish-soldiers-on-after-the-closing-of-her-arts-space-fabulon/Content?oid=27098043>

*Finding Her Voice* West of Free Press December 2018 <https://www.westof.net/finding-her-voice/>

*For Arts Sake* West of February 2018

<https://www.westof.net/oh-for-arts-sake/>

*Fabulon's Susan Irish Assembles More Than 20 Artist For an Exhibit to Examine Race in America* City Paper March 2107

<https://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/charleston/fabulons-susan-irish-assembles-more-than-20-artists-from-here-and-afar-for-an-exhibit-examining-race-in-todays-america/Content?oid=6998681>

*Artistic Upstart* Charleston Magazine January 2017

<https://charlestonmag.com/search/content/susan%20irish>

*Transformative Touches* Post and Courier 2015

[https://www.postandcourier.com/features/home\\_and\\_garden/transformative-touches/article\\_cc3a5c24-6742-55f0-bfc9-de88fa995468.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/features/home_and_garden/transformative-touches/article_cc3a5c24-6742-55f0-bfc9-de88fa995468.html)

*Encaustic Art at Alchemy* West OF 2013

*Encaustic Art at Alchemy* City Paper 2013

HGTV *Homes Across America* episode "Passive Solar at Whitehall Lake" tour of client's home 1995

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### **Employment**

## **2015-2020 Sub-contracted Teaching Engagements**

**Private Studio Lesson** Adult, Children, and people of all ages with special needs.

**Benton House** West Ashley 2019 Memory Care Facility

**Engaging Creative Minds** 2018

**Berkeley County Summer Step** 2016, 2018, 2019

**Project Uplift** art for kids affected by cancer 2015-2019

## **2015-2018 Fabulon, A Center for Art and Education**

Charleston, SC

**Gallery Director** provide an introductory experience for emerging artists and an entertaining and informative experience for visitors.

Manage art, artists' statements, displays, storage, and promotion for twelve artists.

Curate collections and specialty shows.

Responsible for daily business operations.

### **Resident Artist**

Consistently produce gallery quality art to fit with exhibitions and theme shows.

**Art Teacher** Using an interdisciplinary approach, I infuse critical literacy, creative problem solving, and effective communication skills into an authentic discipline based art experience.

Design and implement high quality art instruction in an attainable manner for professionals and amateur artists offering classes in art for children and adults.

Summer Session intensive summer experience for gifted and talented students

Portfolio Preparation Classes for students trying out for advanced studies.

### **Community Activism**

Created a space for groups involved in social justice to meet and collaborate.

Host events for marginalized or underserved groups.

Fabulon Night a poetry open mic night for the LGBTQ community in collaboration with We are Family.

Tricounty Art Teachers Professional Development

*We, the People. Artists respond to racism.* This was a healing and fundraising event. Hosted and curated.

*Future Casting* a Hip Hop show to make music and poetry more accessible to the neighborhood. In collaboration with Hampton R. Olfus, Jr., WAAI and The City of Charleston

Collaborated on the West Ashley Arts Initiative to bring more art to West Ashley.

Started West Ashley Cultural Arts page on Facebook as a promotional space for posting about arts opportunities in West Ashley.

Hosts SCAEA Student Art Show

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## **2009-2011 West Ashley Middle School**

Charleston, SC

6, 7, 8 Art, Advanced Art, Photography and Graphic Design

**Response to Intervention PASS PUSH Coach**

Working with students who have the lowest reading levels trying to get them to achieve higher scores on Palmetto Assessment of State Standards test by integrating storytelling, drawing, and kinesthetic activities

**Academic Arts Team Leader**

Represent the needs of the music, physical education, drama, reading interventions and creative writing departments at all planning and strategy meetings.

**Data Committee**

Translating the results of testing and School Quality Review into an action plan for student achievement and school improvement.

**American Legion Veterans Outreach Project**

Collaborated with local branch members and students to create greeting cards for Victory House residents.

**2001-2009 Jordan-Small Middle School**

Raymond, ME

5-8 Art, Photography.

**Curriculum Writing**

Established program when middle school separated from elementary school.  
Wrote curriculum for Middle School.  
Collaborated on the Elementary curriculum.

**Program Development**

Developed district wide identification process and programs for Advanced Learners in the Arts to meet Maine State mandates.  
Wrote curriculum for Advanced Learners in Studio Art.

**Program Development**

Organized an *Art Op* student exchange for GT Art

**Cultural Programs**

Hosted year long exchange programs for teachers from Korea and Japan to offer students exposure to the visual art, storytelling, music, food, and customs of other people.

**Student Assistance Team**

State sponsored organization that provides assistance for students who are having difficulties socially or academically but are not being serviced through special education programs.

**Team Leader for the Academic Enrichment Team**

Represented the needs of the arts, PE, and foreign language departments at all administration meetings.  
Collaborated on student handbook, school philosophy and mission statement.  
Synchronized the AE schedules.

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**June 1987 -September 1998 Self-employed Interior Design Consultation Service**

Educated and Certified in Interior Design

Specialized in new construction, lighting, and garden design.

**June 1984 -June 2000 Teacher of Adult Education**

King Philip Department of Continuing Ed  
Interior Design

Wrentham, MA

Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical School

Hudson, MA

Interior Design for Homeowners

Interior Design for Changing Real Estate Market

Interior Design for Professionals

***EDUCATION EXPERIENCE***

**Lesley University**

Cambridge, MA

**Master's Degree March 2009**

Creative Arts and Learning Integrating the Arts into the Curriculum

4.0GPA

**Bridgewater University**

Bridgewater, MA

**Bachelors of Arts and Sciences June 2000**

Art and Education double major

Magna Cum Laude

**Chamberlayne School at Mount Ida**

Boston, MA

Associate's Degree Interior Design 1983

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***CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE***

**College of Charleston**

Nature and Needs of the Gifted Child

**Maine College of Art**

Welding, Encaustic, Sculpture, Drawing, Painting,

Illustrating Children's Books.

**University of Southern Maine**

Addressing the Needs of Exceptional Children

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***LEADERSHIP ROLES***

2018 to present Membership Chair NAWASC

April 2016 West Ashley Arts Initiative

January 2010 Middle Grades Matters Conference

Workshop Sessions Leader: Integrating Literacy in the Art Studio

June-2009 July 2001 SEARCH

After school and summer camp programs sponsored by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant  
Managed and implemented arts programs including poetry, photography,  
sculpture, and movie making.

***REFERENCES*** provided upon request.