

## **Jami Joelle Nielsen Artist Bio**

Jami Joelle Nielsen is a Santa Barbara, CA based self-taught artist who was born in Kansas City, Kansas, and received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at the University of Kansas. She is influenced by her many passions, including working as an elementary school outdoor art and science educator in Isla Vista, CA, as well as being a naturalist, habitat restoration specialist and in wildlife rehabilitation, and a writer, poet and advocate for the disabled community. She's been exhibiting art nationally since 2007. Her body of work combines a reverence for nature and the human experience. Jami Joelle creates assemblage, paintings and collage, using found, recycled, man-made materials, as well as elements from nature. Operating within the intersection of art, science, and social change, she strives to develop powerful works that speak to social and environmental concerns while encouraging dialogue, education and collaboration in an inclusive community, connecting us to each other and the broader universe. Her art narrates the disconnection that exists in humanity's relationship with its source, and explores deeper dependencies therein. The result pays homage to symbiosis, transformation and hope. Jami Joelle has shown art in over 60 exhibitions nationally, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara and has art on permanent display at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She completed a Digital Residency in 2021 with Marin County's Youth In Arts, a primary site for the Kennedy Center's Very Special Arts Program, where she developed Art & Environmental Science lessons for Elementary School students. Her artwork is featured in the Women's & Non-binary Print Issue #34 of *Create! Magazine* published in early 2023.

## **Jami Joelle Nielsen Artist Statement**

As a disabled artist with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a painful genetic degenerative joint and neurological disease, I must spend most of my life in bed within a small world, constrained by the same 4 walls. It is in my bed where I use recycled materials, relevant to science, nature and humanity, to test spatial boundaries and construct analog papercut and mixed media collage "Otherworldly Landscapes", surreal worlds and places of wonder which I can imagine and explore. From thousands of potential components, I deconstruct and reconstruct materials into a "puzzle" that has never existed, experimenting and manipulating materials until a destined new world is revealed as whole and complete. These artworks are both of this earthly realm and the human experience, as well as beyond it. I invite the viewer to interpret and explore these fantastical worlds with me while reimagining their own place and futures.