

Jami Joelle Nielsen Artist Bio

Jami Joelle Nielsen is a Santa Barbara, California 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, in wildlife rehabilitation, and as writer, poet and advocate for the disabled community. She's been exhibiting art 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, community and social change, she strives to develop powerful works that speak to social and environmental concerns while encouraging dialogue, education, equity 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 70 exhibitions and 10 solo exhibits nationally and internationally. She has art on permanent display at the University of California, Santa Barbara's Environmental Science Department as well as on the cover of a Climate Justice textbook. Jami Joelle completed a 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 and Environmental Science lessons for disabled elementary school students. She serves on the Outreach Committee for the Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative Community Arts Workshop and her artwork is featured in the Women's & Non-binary Print Issue #34 of *Create! Magazine* published in February 2023. Her artwork will soon be displayed in Barcelona, Spain's Passeig de Gràcia in June of 2023, reaching half a million people. Jami Joelle is honored to be a part of such a vibrant arts community!

Jami Joelle Nielsen Artist Statement

As a disabled artist with Osteoarthritis and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a painful genetic degenerative joint and neurological disease, I spend much 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 assemblage, paintings, analog papercut and mixed media collage "Otherworldly Landscapes", surreal worlds and places of wonder which I can imagine and explore, as well as "Anthropogenic Artifacts", reflections of humanity's relationship with itself and the planet. From thousands of potential components, I deconstruct and reconstruct recycled 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, ironic or dystopian worlds with me while reimagining their own place and futures.