

HOPALOOZA!

Presented by:

Midwest BunFest and Ohio House Rabbit Rescue

October 19, 2019

Columbus, Ohio USA

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Ohio House Rabbit Rescue, Columbus, Ohio, 43214

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HOPALOOZA!

A Message from the Producers of Hopalooza!

Art has the ability to make people stop and think about issues that they may have otherwise overlooked entirely, and it raises awareness, informs, educates, and enhances. Art is a powerful tool that engages the community, creates the means for public dialogue, and encourages creative action and activism. It can also support Ohio House Rabbit Rescue's mission: to create awareness and educate the public about the proper care of rabbits as companion animals.

Hopalooza! was the outcome of conversations about unique, diverse, and fun approaches to community engagement at Midwest BunFest in 2019. This special event exceeded every expectation and brought together the communities of rabbit lovers and artists to build enthusiasm, to learn, and to grow together.

The auction of bunny sculptures was an amazing site. Every sculpture was a work of art, and seeing all Twenty-eight bunnies together was very unique. This catalogue contains a few pictures of all the sculptures together to share and to preserve the memory of that day.

Ohio House Rabbit Rescue (OHRR) wants to extend sincerest thanks to the many people who made Hopalooza! so successful: Adrienne Lang and Mary Kalb, the organizers, all the amazing artists, and Ohio House Rabbit Rescue/Midwest BunFest volunteers who made the event a reality. The beauty and creativity of each sculpture impressed everyone. Thanks to the talented artists who labored and created the sculptures. The Ohio House Rabbit Rescue bunnies cannot thank them enough for sharing their creativity and immense talents for this charity auction. Thanks to the bidders and sculpture winners. OHRR hopes that everyone had fun participating and enjoyed seeing the beautiful sculptures. The sculptures have gone to homes and businesses across the USA, and two are residing in the United Kingdom. OHRR hopes the beauty and the unique stories of their creation serve to spark conversations and enjoyment for years to come.

The digital version of this catalogue is housed on the Midwest BunFest website at <http://www.midwestbunfest.org/hopalooza.html> . Pictures, artists' biographies, and inspiration statements are included for each sculpture.

Once again, OHRR wants to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to all for participating in Hopalooza! Enjoy the catalogue, share the rescue message, and support your local rabbit rescue!

HOPALOOZA!

About the Event

Hopalooza! was a collaborative fundraising effort between national artists and Ohio House Rabbit Rescue of Columbus, Ohio. This one-time art show and auction of rabbit sculptures was a featured part of Ohio House Rabbit Rescue's annual Midwest BunFest held in Columbus, Ohio on October 19, 2019.

Hopalooza! was patterned after "Cow Parade," an international public art exhibit that has been featured in major world cities. OHRR distributed thirty unfinished rabbit sculptures to artists who worked in various media to enhance, embellish, and transform blank sculptures into beautiful works of art. OHRR then invited the public to view the sculptures on display at Midwest BunFest's venue, the Northland Performing Arts Center, 4411 Tamarack Blvd., Columbus, Ohio. Organizers offered the sculptures in a silent auction format, and bidding for the sculptures was live and on-site only.

HOPALOOZA!

The Artists

Although a few came from as far as California and Colorado, participating artists primarily lived in the Midwest USA region. The Hopalooza! event committee selected the artists based upon their applications, their work samples, their proposed sculpture themes, and their active participation in the regional arts community. Mary Kalb and Adrienne Lang donated the unfinished plaster sculptures, sent them to the selected artists, and asked the artists to use their creativity, talents, and imagination to finish and embellish the sculptures.

OHRR organizers accepted any medium, and the sculptures on the pages to follow represented acrylic and watercolor painting, graphic art, ceramics, metalworking, tattoo arts, ink drawing, textile arts, enameling, and mixed media. A wide variety of themes such as literature, folklore, music, art, fantasy, popular culture and, of course, rabbits inspired the individual artists. Each artist provided the sculpture title, a brief biography, an inspiration statement, and a photograph of the artist with the sculpture.

In the months leading up to Hopalooza!, many of the artists documented their creative journeys and shared progress notes, pictures, and comments with peer artists and the international rabbit community at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hopalooza/>

The logo for Hopalooza! is a blue, hand-drawn style banner with a white outline and a wavy, torn-edge effect. The word "HOPALOOZA!" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance.

Charity: Ohio House Rabbit Rescue and Midwest BunFest

Proceeds from Hopalooza! and Midwest BunFest benefit Ohio House Rabbit Rescue, a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization located in Columbus, Ohio. OHRR is committed to rescuing abandoned rabbits and educating rabbit owners about proper care. All proceeds from this event go toward the Ohio House Rabbit Rescue Adoption Center, educational programs, and care of rescue rabbits. Visit the website www.ohiohouserabbitrescue.org for more information on the work of Ohio House Rabbit Rescue.

OHRR hosts Midwest BunFest annually. This nationally recognized festival and education event draws regional, national, and international attendees. In addition to this year's Hopalooza! art show, nationally recognized rabbit experts and rabbit-savvy veterinarians presented sessions on pet rabbit care, feeding, health, behavior, and more. The event included services for pet rabbits, vendors with specialty rabbit products, more than fifteen rabbit rescues from around the United States, and many people who LOVED to talk about rabbits! For more information about the annual Midwest BunFest event, please visit the website at www.midwestbunfest.org

HOPALOOZA!

Photos



HOPALOOZA!



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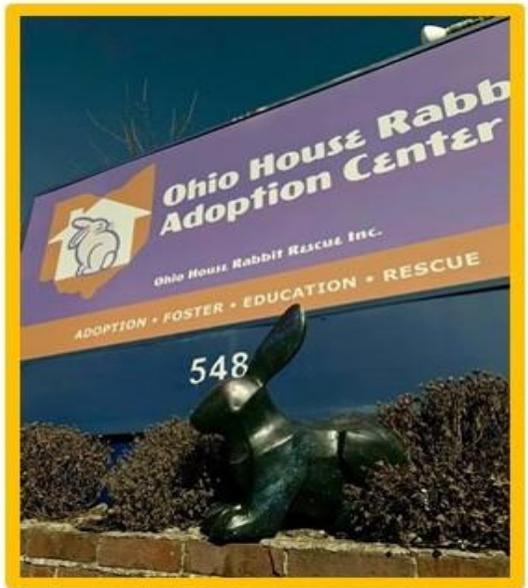
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HOPALOOZA!

Honey, I Shrunk the Rabbit

Christy Monson Conner

Bunny Artist from Richmond, Kentucky



Christy is a freelance artist with a degree in art from Eastern Kentucky University.

Her studies included painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and jewelry. Painting is her main focus these days with a bit of mosaics when the mood hits. Inspiration is everywhere, and she loves to learn and try new mediums.

Currently she is learning to weld.

Over the years Christy has been lucky enough to have her designs chosen for some very large public art exhibitions.

The largest piece to date was a life size horse for the World Equestrian Games held in Lexington, Kentucky in 2010. House rabbits have shared Christy's life and have been her passion since 1997, and she thinks this is an exciting way to promote the rescue efforts of Ohio House Rabbit Rescue.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

There was no initial inspiration for this piece. I knew I was going to do it in glass, and after looking at all the different colors on my table for a bit, I just saw what it would be in my head.

HOPALOOZA!

El-ahrairah

Penny Collins

Bunny Artist from Toledo, Ohio



Penny “That Lady” Collins is a professional artist/illustrator who specializes in the topic of rabbits and hares. She uses her work to map out life’s journey. Penny’s works have been published and shown internationally.

Her comic, *Regarding the Secret Life of Rabbits*, can be seen in several languages. What started as a RABBIT-A-DAY creative exercise turned into a life-long passion. Although her illustration/artwork covers the gamut of life and subject matter, Penny continues to return to the little heartbeats at her feet.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

“El-ahrairah, your people cannot rule the world, for I will not have it so. All the world will be your enemy, Prince With A Thousand Enemies, and whenever they catch you, they will kill you. But first, they must catch you, digger, listener, runner, prince with the swift warning. Be cunning and full of tricks and your people shall never be destroyed.’ And El-ahrairah knew then that although he would not be mocked, Frith was still his friend.” (from *Watership Down* by Richard Adams) El-ahrairah fell into pride. Believing himself and his people to be the strongest in the world, he heeded not the warning of Frith. Aren’t we all fallen spirits?

And yet, although Frith would not be mocked, he is still our friend.

My piece is a stylized El-ahrairah : a symbolic examination (and reminder) of what it is to be “human”. Our humanity is symbolized by the Earth-tones and structure of the guiding lines (our need for order and architecture). What may not be recognized in this piece is the black base-coat symbolizing the Black Rabbit of Inlé (our mortality) – and yet it IS visible. It is the very linework of the character as well as the red inner shadow of El-ahrairah’s eyes.

HOPALOOZA!

Guess How Much I Love You- Betsy, The Space Bun

Molly Semones

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Molly adopted her first rabbits, two part-lionheads, from the Columbus House Rabbit Society in 2011. Since then three more buns adopted from the Columbus House Rabbit Society and Ohio House Rabbit Rescue have joined her and her partner. She delights in creating, tromping about outside, time with fun people, and board games. She moonlights as a consultant, scientist, teacher and academic to keep her bunnies binkying and happy.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

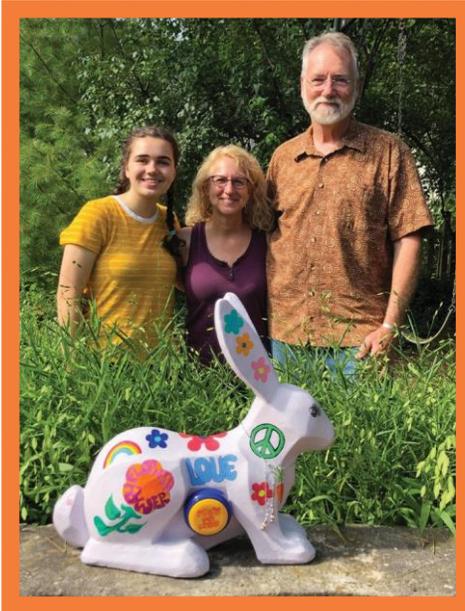
Guess How Much I Love You, the classic illustrated children's book by Sam McBratney, tells the story of a young bun hyperbolically expressing his love for his parent as they tuck him in for the night. At the end of the book, the little bun tells his parent, "I love you up to the moon." The big hare then responds, "that is very far..." and tucks the little hare in and whispers the now well-known and oft-repeated saying, "I love you to the moon and back".

The inspiration for my bunny comes from this cultural touchstone." *Guess How Much I Love You—Betsy the Space Bun* attempts to capture the love, dedication, and spirit of the rabbit community as well as the big hearts of all the bunnies who learn to love again and who teach us to love deeper.

Betsy has her astronaut helmet on and is ready to blast off on her Midwest BunFest mission to support the Ohio House Rabbit Rescue bunnies. Won't you join her?

HOPALOOZA!

Summer of Love



Beth Abramovitz

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio

Beth primarily makes etched silver jewelry, and her inspiration comes from her garden.

Frannie Mamlin

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio

Frannie is a junior at Linworth Alternative High School in Worthington, Ohio. She has had a passion for art her entire life. She plays cello, does theater, and paints at every chance she gets.

David Maywhoor

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio

David has been painting since 1969 and experiments with styles and medium. The chance to splash color on a bunny was too good for him to pass up.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

We were inspired by this summer's celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the "Summer of Love." The bunny was a fun summer collaboration. Our hope is that the flower power with which we covered the critter will instill hope.

HOPALOOZA!

Gracie

Amy Mott

Bunny Artist from Franklin, Tennessee



Amy's love of design and creation of new from the discarded was given to her by her father, an accomplished lamp designer who was known locally to turn trash into treasure.

The only thing that surpasses Amy's love of design is her love for animals. She is a proud bunny, duck, guinea pig, and cat owner, rescuer, and advocate. You can find her most days walking around and "looking down" for trash to turn into absolute beauty.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

"Gracie" represents the gray "hared" ladies that have devoted their lives to rescue.

HOPALOOZA!

Glamour Bun

Cara Cox

Bunny Artist from Hilliard, Ohio



Being a graphic designer, rabbit lover, and rescuer, Cara always “hops” on the chance to create bunny artwork. She attended the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design.

Through Cincinnati’s co-op program she did internships in New York City, Houston, Texas and London, England. She worked full time in New York City for four years before moving to Columbus, Ohio where she has been a graphic design consultant for more than twenty years. Cara enjoys the opportunity to use her design skills to make a living and to give back to the community

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

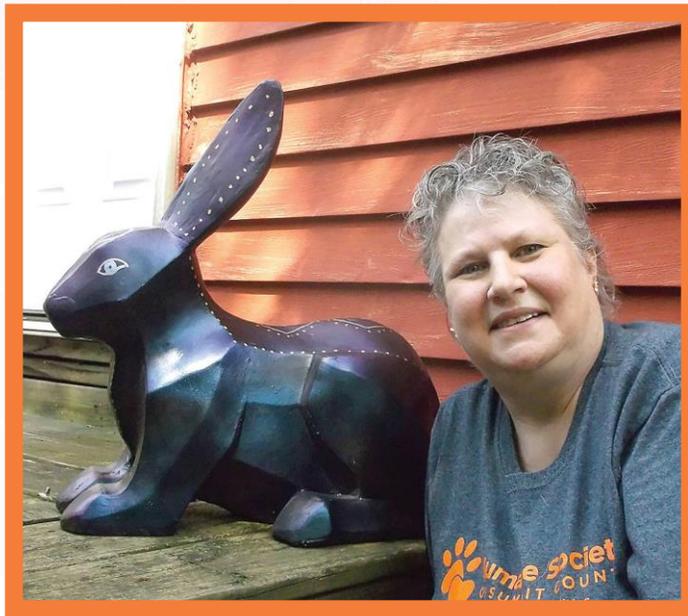
I hope my “Glamour Bun” design will inspire people to love and protect all rabbits and realize that rabbits make great indoor companions. “Glamour Bun” is for those people who love rabbits and who enjoy some pink, glamour, and lots of happiness in their lives.

HOPALOOZA!

Mystic

Eileen Matias

Bunny Artist from Akron, Ohio



Eileen, an artist working in Akron, Ohio, adopted her first rescue rabbit in 1998. She has fostered rabbits and has adopted ten rabbits since then. Her mediums include colored pencil, photography, relief print, and sculpture.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

My bunny statue arrived with a small crack on his face. I decided to keep the crack because in 2016 I adopted a rabbit that came to the shelter with one eye missing due to an infection. The minute I saw him I knew he was coming home with me once he was available for adoption. The infection came back, and the little guy ended up dying. The vet said he was either an old rabbit or one that had had a hard life. So, this rabbit is dedicated to all the rabbits who come to shelters and rescues with special needs.

HOPALOOZA!

Jack Rabbit

Michelle Mathuews

Bunny Artist from Grove City, Ohio



Michelle is a Jill of all Trades, but her main focuses are on her cake business (Project Cakes), her artwork, and dog walking. She loves animals of all kinds and enjoys utilizing her skills to help them. Michelle loves hiking and is a proponent for environmental issues and animal rights.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

My mind immediately went to puns. I then thought of a Jack Rabbit and Alice in Wonderland, but instead of the obvious choice, I immediately envisioned a grand and regal looking rabbit as a member of a king's court like the playing cards in the story. Combine that all and you have my "Jack Rabbit."

HOPALOOZA!

He Carries Starlight in His Wake

Kathleen Tom

Bunny Artist from Fallbrook, California



Kathleen is a Chinese-American artist who works primarily in pen and ink and watercolor. Her works combine elements from her Chinese heritage with the whimsical. She was born and raised in New York City, and at the age of 24, she moved to Southern California where she currently resides with her son.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

Because of shipping issues, my rabbit blank arrived broken. I was disappointed, but instead of throwing it away, I decided to repair it. Pieces that could be glued back were glued back. Holes and missing pieces were filled with paper clay and epoxy paste. The image I've painted on the rabbit is a continuing theme throughout my drawings for the last few years... purity, serenity and ethereal beauty.

What was once broken can be beautiful and strong again.

HOPALOOZA!

Galaxy Camo

David Honaker

Bunny Artist from Louisville, Kentucky



David graduated from Murray State University with a bachelor's degree in fine art and printmaking. He tattoos as his primary occupation. He and his wife are printmakers and sell art under the name Dirty Hand Studios. During the fall he carves intricate pumpkins for the Louisville Jack O' Lantern Spectacular.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

“I’m just trying to deal with the phenomenon”.

HOPALOOZA!

Hare Krishna

Maggie Rusnak

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

Maggie Rusnak's Hopalooza! bunny is titled "Hare Krishna", which celebrates her Indian family and pays homage to her meditation practice. The name is a play on words: "hare" in Sanskrit means "to praise"—and we all know bunnies are divas in search of worship by their fans!

Three other meaningful ancient words are included in the design:

- (1) "Om"—found in the middle of the bun's back—expresses the connectedness of the universe;
- (2) "Anicca"—found on the left above the tail—means "impermanence" and is a reminder to remain focused on the present moment; and
- (3) "Ahimsa"—found on the right above the tail—means "non-violence" and is a reminder to treat one's self, as well as others, with compassion.

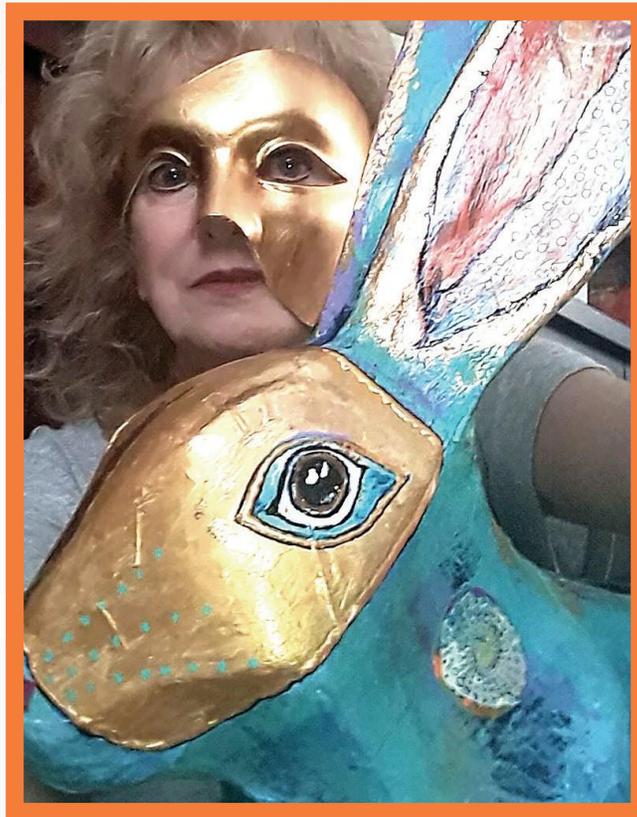
These three words help guide Maggie's personal philosophy, and she wished to share this through her artistic rendering of the embellished bunny. She hopes that others will feel her inspiration and enjoy "Hare Krishna" as much as she enjoyed creating it.

HOPALOOZA!

Blue Harlequin

Debby Widolf

Bunny Artist from Loveland, Colorado



Debby has been involved in rabbit rescue for the past twenty-five years and has been an educator for the House Rabbit Society since 1998. She worked at the Best Friends Animal Facility as manager of the Rabbit Department for nine years. Since retirement (semi-retirement) Debby has had more opportunity to pursue her passion for art. Most recently she has taught needle felting and has sold pieces to benefit rabbit rescues. Whenever Debby gets the chance, she paints and loves using a mixed medium approach.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

My love for rabbits was my inspiration to create the “Blue Harlequin” rabbit for the Hopalooza! auction at BunFest. The vision for my art is to raise awareness about the colorful spirit of the rabbit and of rabbits’ ability to inspire our actions and enrich our lives.

HOPALOOZA!

Bun Haylen

Allison Coleman

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



A little white rabbit hopping down her neighborhood street introduced Allison to the bun world. She always had been a cat person and didn't know how to care for a house rabbit. The plan was to foster and help him find a good home. But... she and her husband fell in love with the little guy and named him Luigi (aka Weegie). Luigi inspired Allison to become involved with helping bunnies. She had no idea that Columbus had such a large community of bunny people and has made some awesome lifelong friends from there. Who knew that one bunny could make such a difference in her life? So now she is officially a bun and cat person. She has four amazing cats and just recently adopted her new baby bunny, Dino. He is a Flemish Giant with a giant personality!

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

A lifelong love of music and animals provided the inspiration for my bunny. Music and a passion for helping animals are very important to my husband and me. We strongly believe music and kindness and compassion to our beloved bunnies makes the world a better place. I felt what better way to show this than by making "Bun Haylen" which is based on the original paint job of Eddie Van Halen's iconic guitar.

HOPALOOZA!

FloraBUNda

Mary Kalb

Bunny Artist and Hopalooza! Event Coordinator from Louisville, Kentucky



Mary is the founder and president of Harvey's House, the Kentucky Chapter of the House Rabbit Society. She was a textile artist/quilter/seamstress for twenty-five years and is now retired from that work because of health issues. Mary has been instrumental in conceiving and carrying out Hopalooza!

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny _____

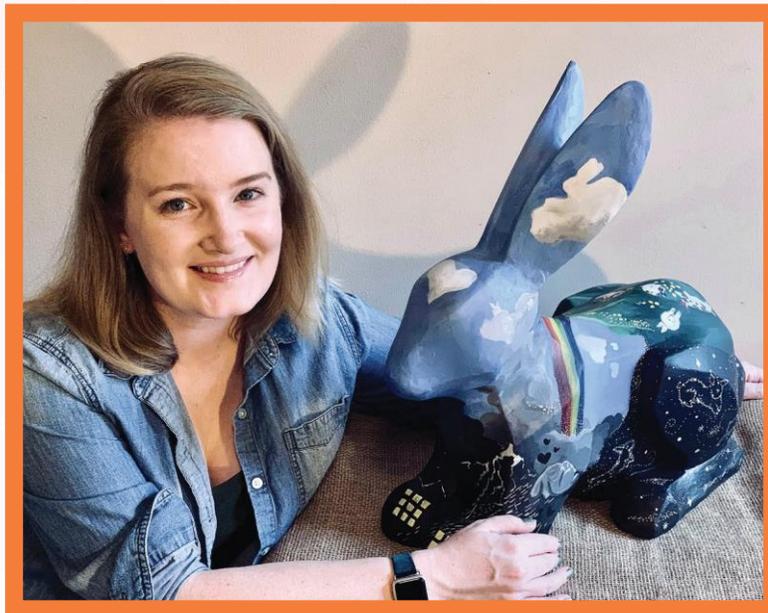
One of my favorite childhood books, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, inspired me to create "FloraBUNda." It is a beautiful story about the redemptive power of love. It made a profound impression on me, and it parallels my feeling about rabbit rescue: love and patient nurturing can unlock and heal the broken and forgotten. Our rescue work shows proof of this every day, and it gives me pure joy to see our "garden" of rescued rabbits blooming at Harvey's House.

HOPALOOZA!

Daybreak at the Rainbow Bridge

Andrea Biggs

Bunny Artist from Fairview, Tennessee



Andrea is the pet portrait watercolor illustrator behind Breath of Life Illustrations.

She also helped found the Guinea pig program at Clover Patch Sanctuary.

She lives just outside of Nashville, Tennessee with her boyfriend and their myriad of cats, bunnies, Guinea pigs, and birds. She has always been drawn to the animals and nature with which we share our planet.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

The darkest feeling is waking up the morning after you have lost a pet. This piece is a depiction of the peaceful transition I imagine our pets going through as they make their way from this life to the next.

HOPALOOZA!

Gathering Flowers

Irene Finck

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Irene makes stoneware clay vessels and sculptures. Nature and the time spent as a child in her backyard gardens with her Dad provide her inspiration. She loves the textures and forms of nature like pine cones, acorns, ginkgo leaves, and sweet gum tree pods. Images of plants are most often the designs on her work.

Most images are carved into the clay or applied. These images, while they relate to real plants, are her interpretation of them. Some might see a daisy while others, a sunflower. She likes this. She first worked with clay at OSU and loved it. She has always been a maker and enjoys seeing what she can do. She was able to work with clay again about fifteen years ago, and it is her favorite medium.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

My vision is of a bunny taking a morning romp in a dew-covered, flower filled meadow.

HOPALOOZA!

Dandelion Treat

Lisa O'Kelly Nye

Bunny Artist from Liberty Township, Ohio



For as long as Lisa can remember, she has been exploring the arts. She graduated from The Cleveland Institute of Art with a BFA in illustration. Then she worked for over twenty-five years as a professional artist including ten years at American Greetings. After eight years in Minnesota as a creative manager, she made her way back to Ohio. She decided to pursue her passion for teaching and did freelance illustration while getting her teaching license. She has been teaching at Rutherford B. Hayes High School in Delaware, Ohio for ten years.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

I admire and respect the work being done by Ohio House Rabbit Rescue and wanted to lend my talents to this great cause. My inspiration was my daughter's bunny, Oliver. He was a loved member of our family for over nine years, and he attended BunFest twice. Oliver enjoyed being outside especially with his buddy, Max. Oliver also loved his treats, as most bunnies do.

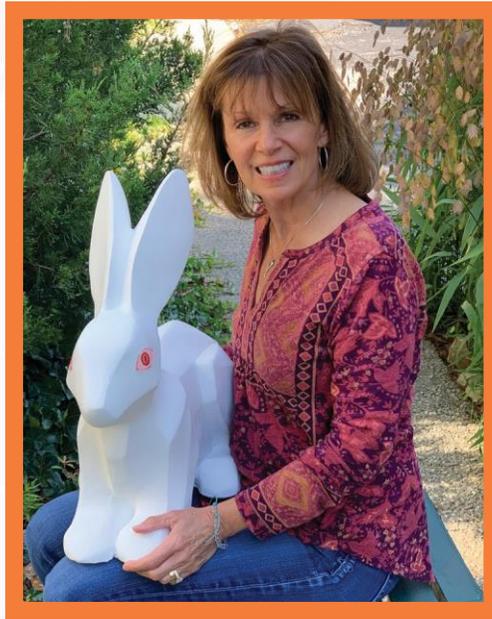
This sculpture is also a nod to the online videos of other bunnies enjoying their special treats.

HOPALOOZA!

REW (Ruby-Eyed White)

Adrienne Lang

Hopaloosa! Event Coordinator from Powell, Ohio



Adrienne Lang is not an artist. Many of the Hopaloosa! bunnies were purchased online and arrived broken and required her to glue, sculpt, spackle, sand and paint them into shape. She is a rescuer who started in dog rescue and moved into rabbit rescue with the Ohio House Rabbit Rescue in 2011. Her son brought her family's first house rabbit home from college in 2001. Adrienne is a physical therapist assistant who has worked in sports medicine for over twenty years. Together with Mary Kalb of Harvey's House Rabbit Rescue and Sanctuary, Adrienne coordinated the Hopaloosa! event at Midwest BunFest 2019.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopaloosa! Bunny

“REW (Ruby-Eyed White)” is a blank bunny sculpture which is primed, ready, and waiting for someone to take it home, and pour out his/her heart and creative spirit on it. Much like the often-overlooked Ruby-Eyed White bunnies in rescues and shelters, this bunny sculpture is a blank canvas representing unlimited potential, hopes, dreams, and inspiration for a better future for all. The artist who originally took this bunny lost interest or didn't have the time for it which is very often the way animals end up in a rescue shelter. In the article, “Looking Past the (Pink) Eyes” the House Rabbit Society (HRS) discusses the reason for these bunnies ending up in shelters in disproportionate numbers. The article describes the REW breed as “some of the most amiable, sweet-tempered rabbits there are. Often they are overlooked in favor of their tiny lop friends, but once you share your home with a New Zealand (REW), you will be pleasantly surprised and may just have found your new best friend.” (July 10, 2011, <https://rabbit.org/looking-past-the-pink-eyes/>) Special thanks to Mary Beth Parisi for painting the beautiful ruby eyes.

HOPALOOZA!

Buckeye Bunny

Mary Beth Parisi

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Mary Beth Parisi is a glass enamel artist and contemporary painter who lives and works in Columbus, Ohio and Nashville, Tennessee. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, her glass enamel pieces range from small jewelry to larger vessels and 2-dimensional works. Her personal style emanates whimsy and joy and expresses the vibrant spirit of music and literature reimagined. Parisi's artwork has been shown in exhibitions and galleries in Columbus, Cleveland, and New York. In the rabbit world, Mary Beth is a Board Member of Ohio House Rabbit Rescue and has been Co-Chair of Midwest BunFest since its inception. A proud human to her two current rescue bunnies, Jack and Jill, she has been a rabbit lover, rescuer, fosterer and transporter for more than a decade.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

This bunny sculpture is being done to celebrate the Columbus hometown obsession—The Ohio State University.

As many of you know, Columbus is home to the host organization of Midwest BunFest - Ohio House Rabbit Rescue. I thought it apropos to honor that connection by giving one of the bunnies an OSU theme. As an OSU alumna and Hopalooza! artist, I was honored to accept the challenge. I am using my bunny, Jack, adopted from OHRR as my inspiration.

HOPALOOZA!

Bunnerfly

Mary Beth Parisi

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Mary Beth Parisi is a glass enamel artist and contemporary painter who lives and works in Columbus, Ohio and Nashville, Tennessee. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, her glass enamel pieces range from small jewelry to larger vessels and 2-dimensional works. Her personal style emanates whimsy and joy and expresses the vibrant spirit of music and literature reimagined. Parisi's artwork has been shown in exhibitions and galleries in Columbus, Cleveland, and New York. In the rabbit world, Mary Beth is a Board Member of Ohio House Rabbit Rescue and has been Co-Chair of Midwest BunFest since its inception. A proud human to her two current rescue bunnies, Jack and Jill, she has been a rabbit lover, rescuer, fosterer, and transporter for more than a decade.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

My inspiration for "Bunnerfly" came from a desire to try and blend three of my favorite things into one single piece. I am a voracious reader of epic fantasy literature, an enamellist and painter of natural forms, and, of course, a lover of bunnies. In rabbit rescue, as in life, we focus so much on the realities around us. We sometimes forget to dream, to imagine. As I contemplated my blank sculpture, I allowed myself to just imagine... What if bunnies could fly? What if they lived in the water? A bunny with a mermaid tail was high on my list, but the mechanics of sawing the sculpture in half was a bit too much, even for me! LOL!!! But wings to soar on; that is cool. May my inspiration speak to your imagination. May the idea of a butterfly bunny touch something inside that sets your imagination and creative spirit free. Joy, delight, humor!

HOPALOOZA!

Big Bertha

Barbara Allen Frost and Koranna Spurgeon

Bunny Artists from Westerville, Ohio



Barbara Allen Frost and Koranna Spurgeon have a unique art relationship with Koranna having introduced Barbara to enameling back in 2002 in one of the evening classes she taught at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center. Later, Barbara was able to take over from Koranna as the enameling teacher there. She taught for almost eight years until Koranna resumed teaching the classes. Their close friendship has included attending four biannual enameling conferences together and hosting monthly open enameling studios at the Cultural Arts Center.

Barbara is a full-time registered architect with her own practice, and Koranna is an insurance sales specialist at Health Scope Benefits. They loved working on this as a team.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

Barbara and Koranna are both metal enamellists and use ground color glass fused in a kiln onto a copper base. This gave them the idea to paint their bunny a dark bronze outdoor paint color, which Koranna then decorated with some of the unique designs that she also uses on her copper enamel pieces. Then they added the painted ferns and fancy flowers to doll up the bunny. Decorating the rabbit's neck is an enamel pendant made by Barbara specifically for the rabbit.

They worked on this project together over the summer months in Barbara's enameling studio, but every time that Barbara wanted to do other art forms or enameling there, she had to pick up and move the unfinished rabbit, which she then started referring to as "Big Bertha" because of the awkward and heavy form. That name just stuck!

HOPALOOZA!

Willow

Marya DeBlasi

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Marya DiBlasi is a Columbus based artist. Born in New Jersey, Marya studied anthropology and painting in college where she discovered a passion for both art and the stories we tell about ourselves and the world around us. Since 2000, Marya has been exploring metal-smithing as a medium and she shows her work under the artist name: Primate. She can be found practicing and creating metal art, lapidary (stone/minerals) and jewelry at various venues around the central Ohio area and at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

All my life, I have been fascinated by myths, legends and other stories humans tell to describe the world around us. From the first recorded history, people have been depicting animals in human roles in visual and spoken art forms to teach and tell stories about their lives, history, and beliefs. We often ascribe human motivation and anthropomorphize animal intention and behavior. When I was approached to contribute to Hopalooza!, I was interested in blending the stories and myths we tell about rabbits.

My sculpture shows various vignettes of rabbits in myth. It represents the long bond between us, and I hope to inspire folks to think about how these gentle and intriguing creatures have influenced us throughout history. What do the stories we tell say about our culture and attitudes toward the other beings with whom we share the earth?

HOPALOOZA!

Medieval Marginalia

Ann Elliott

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Ann enjoys experimenting in a variety of media including photography, glass enamels on copper, calligraphy, and painting. She normally works with small pieces and photographs small things, so the size of these bunnies provided an interesting change of pace.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

This piece was inspired by the whimsically creative images in the margins of illuminated manuscripts. These include geometric designs, detailed images from nature, mythological creatures, strange hybrid creatures, and animals doing human things— which is still popular to draw today in animated and children’s books! All the rabbits on this piece are copied from scenes of rabbits and hares in medieval manuscripts.

HOPALOOZA!

Nevermore

Kim Maring

Bunny Artist from Hurricane, West Virginia



In addition to being a bunny parent to six amazingly spoiled bunny rabbits, Kim is a textile artist with Uptown Bunny LLC. She enjoys being creative in all areas and hopes that she can rock this big bunny out to an amazing home for an amazing cause.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

Inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven*, my bunny "Nevermore" symbolizes our mournful, never ending remembrance of bunnies lost. "Nevermore" is embellished in vintage Edgar Allen Poe literary pages and comes with a copy of Poe's original work, *The Raven*.

HOPALOOZA!

Carrot Bunnvers — aka Captain Rabbit

Amanda Gutsche

Bunny Artist from Hatfield, Pennsylvania



Amanda is a mixed media and graphic artist from the Philadelphia area. She is currently a serf to eight rabbit overlords.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

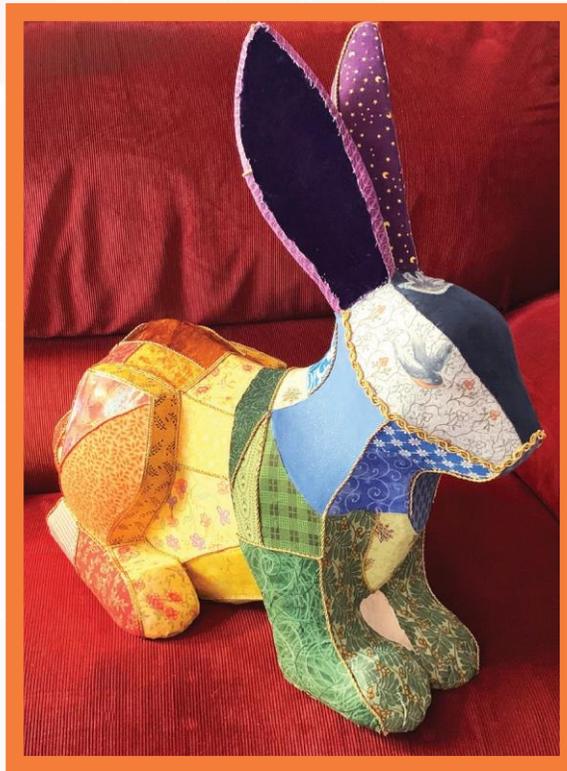
“Carrot Bunnvers” is the champion of rescuers and defender of the small and furry. All the heroes involved with animal rescue efforts inspired me. Anyone who has ever adopted, sheltered, fed, cared for, donated, volunteered, transported and rescued an animal has a bit of hero inside them.

HOPALOOZA!

Still Crazy

Barb Armitage

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Barb is a quilter and needle pointer. Since retiring from teaching, she has had the time to indulge her passions. Barb knew Pat Barron and Bev May who helped start OHRR, and she has been on board to help in many ways. Hopalooza! is a fun opportunity for her to combine her love of friends, bunnies, and quilting. Barb used her training in animal Reiki to guide the selection of fabrics and colors for her sculpture.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

The very first Midwest BunFest was crazy!!! There were fewer of us, so there was so much for each of us to do. The day of the event was also crazy! Lots of people and bunnies attended.

Since then, Midwest BunFest has grown and grown—and it is still crazy!

So, I am making a crazy quilt bunny, and I'm calling it, "Still Crazy"!

HOPALOOZA!

You Are What You Eat!

Ruth E. Fassinger

Bunny Artist from Worthington, Ohio



Ruth is a psychologist by profession and a quilter and fiber artist by avocational interests.

She has been making bunny-themed quilts and selling them at BunFest to support Ohio House Rabbit Rescue for about five years. Two years ago, this wonderful experience (and being blessed by retirement!) inspired her to begin a philanthropic business called Sew Ruth: Quilts for Causes. She now custom-makes and sells themed quilts to support a variety of worthy causes although Ohio House Rabbit Rescue remains her foremost and favorite organization!

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

The inspiration for my bunny came from a quilt I made of the same name (for sale at BunFest) in which I cut out motifs from fruit and veggie fabrics and fused them to make a bunny quilt. I thought it would be fun to make a 3-dimensional decoupage version while using some beautiful papers I had found and combined with other embellishments. My bunny reminds us all that you ARE what you eat!

HOPALOOZA!

The Illustrated Bun-A Tribute to Ray Bradbury

Deirdre Pifer

Bunny Artist from Columbus, Ohio



Deirdre Pifer is a southern girl, born in Georgia and raised in Florida. The influence of tropical color and light shows strongly in her work, and she rarely colors her subjects with the colors they have in real life. She loves to work in many different mediums including acrylics, watercolor, ink, and markers. Large, colorful animal portraits are her specialty, and the bigger and bolder, the better! Her art has been shown in Alexandria, Ohio, Granville, Ohio, Worthington, Ohio, St. Augustine, Florida, and Prestonsburg, Kentucky. She is honored to be a part of the “bunny brigade” volunteering for OHRR.

Inspirational Vision For This Hopalooza! Bunny

When I first accepted this challenge, it was intimidating. I had a big, white plaster bunny in my art studio. He was constantly reminding me that I needed to BEGIN. My work life is very structured, so my creative life is spontaneous and colorful. I started painting the different angles on him as bold acrylic shapes. As I worked, the design idea was coming to life. I doodled shapes on everything! Sharpie markers are my favorite art tool, so I knew they would be perfect for this. It was very laborious but also meditative. There are seventy-three color blocks. It took countless hours and eleven black Sharpies. My studio is full of my favorite books. I decided to pay tribute to Ray Bradbury since he was the first author whom I fell in love with around the age of twelve. I really can't imagine my studio now without this piece. I may be bidding right along with everyone else!

HOPALOOZA!