

# The Castle Voice

January-April, 2026, WomanKraft Art Center's Newsletter Volume 78

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Traci Kelly

**388 S. Stone Ave. Tucson, Arizona 85701 520-256-7455**  
**[www.womankraft.org](http://www.womankraft.org)**

# Castle Voice

*Mysteries of the WomanKraft Castle Center for Art, Education and Culture, Revealed!*

**WomanKraft is a Non-Profit Arts Organization founded in 1974 to claim, validate, and empower women artists and other under-represented groups.**

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## Directors and Coordinators at WomanKraft

### Directors of Exhibits

Tony Russo  
Gayle Swanbeck

### Directors of School of the Arts and General

#### WomanKraft Business

Gayle Swanbeck  
520-256-7455

**Executive Directors:** Gayle Swanbeck, Tony Russo,  
Traci Kelly

**Online Class Booking**  
<https://WomanKraft.scadler.com>

Traci Kelly



**Official WomanKraft Website**

<https://womankraft.org>  
Geno Davis

**For more information, please call 520-256-7455  
Thursday-Saturday, 1-5pm**

### Castle Voice

Organizing, Keystroking, Proofreading, Editing:  
Traci Kelly, Albert Kelly and Gayle Swanbeck  
Design and Photography by Jonathan DuHamel

## Thank You!

WomanKraft thanks Long Realty, our generous members, our gallery docents, investors, clients, customers, and all our volunteers.



In 1991, WomanKraft purchased the 1918 Queen Anne Victorian that is now the WomanKraft Castle Art Center. It houses our gallery, The School of the Arts, The Sanctuary, an all-natural beauty salon, and the art studio of Gayle Swanbeck Studio #103, Lauralee Simon Studio #102 and Tony Russo Building Studio. WomanKraft is located at 388 S. Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ, 85701

### OFFICERS

Lydia Phillips, President  
Darlene Kirk, Vice-President  
Gayle Swanbeck, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

Ana Maria Yañez  
Darlene Kirk  
Gerrie Young  
Gwen Moore  
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Nicole Young  
Terri McGuire  
Tony Russo  
Caroline Latron  
Traci Kelly

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## **PLEASE READ**

### **CHANGES: THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

We have recently lost a major donor to the school, hence we will have limited scholarships for low-income people 50 years and older. We are working at renewing this funding through individual, corporate, grant and foundation sources. Please consider if you can participate in these efforts to restore a much-needed and rewarding service to our community.

### **Drawing Down the Muse Celebration 2026**

On Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 we're bringing back the Drawing Down the Muse Conference for Women!.

Saturday begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee, tea, bagels and cream cheese. Then two workshop presenters will share their offerings, and you'll choose the one you'd like to attend. Workshops will end at 12:30, and the day ends between 1:00 and 1:30 pm.

On Sunday May 3, the event begins at 12:30 p.m. (beverages offered) while two presenters offer the two workshops to choose from for the day. Workshops run from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. participants share their creations from their workshops or bring work created outside the conference: songs, art, poetry, instrumentals, short prose or storytelling. Enjoy light munchies, drinks and talent. Before we close a raffle drawing will take place. You must be present to win. The cost is only \$80 for both days. Workshop themes will be announced soon but include both art and literature options. You must pre-register and pay by 5:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18th, 2026. The number of participants we can accommodate is limited so please register as soon as possible. You will find a listing on Scadlr, our online scheduling website or call/stop by during regular business hours (Th-Sat, 1-5).



# **Gallery Schedule**

Gallery hours: Thursday -Saturday: 1:00-5:00pm  
Gallery ONLY is closed in January 2026

## **FEBRUARY 7-MARCH 28, 2026: NATURE**

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 7-9pm

Flora, fauna or landscape is the theme for this exhibit from anywhere in our big beautiful world. All mediums and styles considered. Deadline for jurying: January 24, 2026

## **APRIL 4- MAY 30, 2026 DRAWING DOWN THE MUSE**

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 7-9pm

It's our 37th annual women artists only show. All mediums and styles included in this decades long WomanKraft tradition. Become a part of our rich and proud history. Deadline for jurying March 21, 2026

## **JUNE 6- JULY 25, 2026 WITHOUT LIMITS**

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 7-9pm.

This show celebrates each artist's chosen style, medium and creativity- it will feature local artists from the emerging to the already arrived. With art selected for the quality of that work, its perspective and creative uses of the chosen mediums. It can be a great photo or a photographic collage, a lovely painting on canvas or handpainted clothing, a beautiful ceramic sculpture or a 3-D piece all from recycled materials. Let us see what you have to offer, it's without limits. Deadline for jurying: May 23, 2026

**Gallery ONLY is closed in August 2026**

## **SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 31st, 2026- AUTUMN SPIRIT**

RECEPTION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 7-9pm

From coast to coast USA what does September- October trigger in you? The end of monsoon rains? Fall Colors? Early winter snow? Indian summer? Halloween? Day of the Dead? It's wide open both in mediums and subjects. Deadline for jurying: August 22, 2026

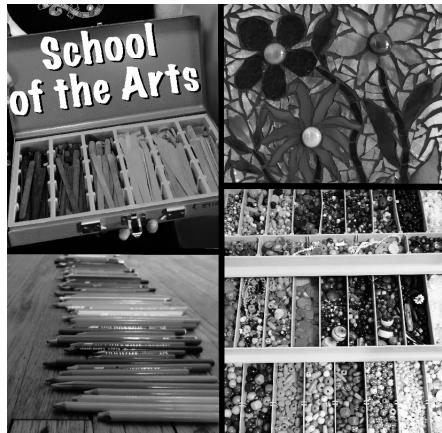
## **NOVEMBER 7- DECEMBER 19, 2026: HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7-9pm

It's the 40th annual Holiday Bazaar! This unique show celebrates the work of local artists with a wide range of fine arts and crafts all retailing between \$1 and \$100. We seek art that reflects the holiday season from Winter Solstice to Christmas, from Kwanzaa to Hanukkah; all mediums, all styles considered. Deadline for jurying: October 24, 2026.

**Are you an artist interested in exhibiting with WomanKraft? Call 520-256-7455 for an appointment with Tony Russo or Gayle Swanbeck, Directors of Exhibits. Artists, please note: Shows are filled from first to respond. Deadlines indicate the last day works will be viewed, not the first. Hence, make contact ASAP. Call Thursday to Saturday from 1-5pm to speak to the docent on duty.**

# WomanKraft School of the Arts



## CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS Welcome to the WomanKraft School of the Arts

Please note: Pre-registration is required for all students. All workshops are open to adults of all ages for listed fees. Your class fees help us offer more classes and pay instructors. Fee students must pre-pay before you will be registered. Please visit [www.womankraft.scadlr.com](http://www.womankraft.scadlr.com) to book your classes today! You can find a link in our website: [Womankraft.org](http://Womankraft.org) or scan the QR code on the inside cover. Hurry while spaces last! Class registration can also be made in person or by calling during business hours Thursday through Saturday 1pm through 5 pm. Please note that because of funding changes and increases in supply costs some workshop fees are higher. Some

scholarships for low income people 50 years and older will be available but you will need to call during business hours Thursday through Saturday 1-5 p.m. to see if you qualify. 520-256-7455

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## JANUARY

### DANGLERS AND WINDCHIMES

In this workshop, you will use an abundant selection of repurposed treasures, learn to use copper wire to create durable suspensions for all-weather displays and have a lot of fun while acquiring new skills.

Saturday, January 24, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Facilitator: Traci Kelly

Fee: \$30, supplies included

### WRITING WITH RUMI

After listening to selected poems by Rumi, participants will imagine and write creative responses to them. They will discover that these poems are pulling them out of their habitual ways of thinking and discover their deeper concerns and joy.

Thursday, January 29, 1:30-3:30 pm

Facilitator: Dr. Annick Safken

Fee: \$20, Supplies included

### WISE WOMAN'S WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn to tap your infinite wisdom and playfully connect with your inner writer. We will journal with writing exercises, topics, and creative surprises.

Friday, January 30, 10:00 am-Noon

Facilitator: Ingrid Aspromatis

Fee: \$20.

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## FEBRUARY

### TREAT YOURSELF: THE MANI-PEDI

In the all-natural hair and body salon housed in "The Castle," the Sanctuary is offering a workshop to learn professional techniques and secrets for manicures, pedicures and more.

Wednesday, February 11, 10:00 am- Noon

Facilitator: Jordana Silvestri

Fee: \$20, supplies included.

### LEARNING TO DRAW: THE GRID: 2 PARTS

You'll create your own grid sheet, select an image from our samples, learn to enlarge or reduce an image by using this grid method. Supplies will be provided during the first workshop but you'll be given a list to acquire for your continued use.

Part 1: Wednesday, February 11, 10:00 am-Noon

Part 2: Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 am-Noon

Facilitator: Tony Russo

Fee \$40

### GARDEN STEPPING STONES: 2 PARTS

Learn techniques to make your very own garden stones. Add color and whimsy to your yard or garden. Learn to use glass and tile while having creative fun.

Part 1: Friday, February 13, 1:30-4:30 pm

Part 2: Friday February 20, 1:30-3:00 pm

Facilitator: Linda K

Fee: \$35 Supplies included

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### **WRITING WITH RUMI**

After listening to selected poems by Rumi, participants will imagine and write creative responses to them. They will discover that these poems are pulling them out of their habitual ways of thinking and discover their deeper concerns and joy.

Thursday, February 19, 1:30-3:30 pm

Facilitator: Dr. Annick Safken

Fee: \$20, Supplies included

### **STILL LIFE DRAWING**

Learn the classic tips for drawing everyday objects. Compile them into a group to create an interesting still life design. We'll color or shade or draw depending on time!

Saturday, February 21, 10:30 am -12:30 pm

Facilitator: Traci Kelly

Fee: \$20 supplies included

### **PHOTOGRAPHY: THE ART OF SEEING 2**

#### **Parts \*NEW CLASS\***

Using your phone's camera and WomanKraft's building and grounds, we'll focus on training your eye to capture the best photograph possible, framing areas, objects and lighting.

Part 1: Saturday, February 21, 1:30- 3:30 pm

Part 2: Saturday, February 28, 1:30- 3:30 pm

Facilitator: Steve Renzi

Fee: \$30- Be sure your batteries are charged

### **WISE WOMAN'S WRITING WORKSHOP**

Learn to tap your infinite wisdom and playfully connect with your inner writer. We will journal with writing exercises, topics, and creative surprises.

Friday, February 27, 10:00 am-Noon

Facilitator: Ingrid Aspromatis

Fee: \$20.

### **CONFIDENT ACRYLICS \*NEW CLASS\***

In 2.5 hours you'll complete a beautiful painting—even if you've never painted before. 'Talent' is overrated... all it takes is desire! Experienced painter already? Mernie has taught unique techniques to hundreds of students at every level. Everyone walks out amazed.

Friday, February 27, 1:30-4:30 pm

Facilitator: Mernie Buchanan

Fee: \$30, supplies included

### **MARCH**

### **MOSAIC ROOF TILES: 2 PARTS**

Using clay roof tiles and glass half-rounds, glass squares, and stained glass, you'll mosaic your own design creation. We use the tiles to edge our walks and plant beds.

Part 1: Friday, March 13, 1:30-4:30 pm

Part 2: Friday, March 20, 1:30-3:00 pm

Facilitator: Linda K.

Fee: \$35, Supplies included

### **FLAT STAINED GLASS MOSAIC: 2 PARTS**

Create an 8"x10" mosaic with an abstract or realistic design while learning to use the tools and tricks of the medium. It's great fun, and stained glass is always beautiful.

Part 1: Saturday, March 14, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Part 2: Saturday, March 21, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Facilitator: Traci Kelly

Fee: \$35, supplies included

### **CROCHET FOR ALL \*NEW CLASS\***

For anyone interested in learning how to turn yarn into something, anything, with the help of a hook! This class will help a newbie learn basic stitches and potentially a motif! We will also talk about materials, design ideas after mastering the basics, and resources for further learning. Seasoned crocheters welcome as we can practice other methods like: corner to corner, Tunisian, and mosaic crochet.

Saturday, March 14, 1:30-3:30 pm

Facilitator: Wini Quartermaine

Fee: \$20

Supplies: there will be some hooks to borrow and some yarn to play with. You may also bring your own if you prefer. Suggested size of hook: 5.0mm, 5.5mm, or 6.0mm; Suggested size yarn: 4 weight.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### WRITING WITH RUMI

After listening to selected poems by Rumi, participants will imagine and write creative responses to them. They will discover that these poems are pulling them out of their habitual ways of thinking and discover their deeper concerns and joy.

Thursday, March 19, 1:30-3:30 pm

Facilitator: Dr. Annick Safken

Fee: \$20, Supplies included

### MAKE YOUR OWN STICKERS \*NEW CLASS\*

Be part of the movement! Embrace this modern twist on a nostalgic fad. Learn different techniques for creating your own handmade stickers using easily accessible and affordable materials!

Saturday, March 21, 1:00-2:30

Facilitator: Inktuce

Fee: \$20, Supplies Included

### WISE WOMAN'S WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn to tap your infinite wisdom and playfully connect with your inner writer. We will journal with writing exercises, topics, and creative surprises.

Friday, March 27, 10:00 am-Noon

Facilitator: Ingrid Aspromatis

Fee: \$20

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Friday, March 27, 1:30-4:30 pm

Facilitator: Mernie Buchanan

Fee: \$30, supplies included

### APRIL

#### TREAT YOURSELF: THE FACIAL

In the all-natural hair and body salon housed in "The Castle," the Sanctuary is offering a workshop to learn professional techniques and secrets for facials, skincare, aromatherapy, and more.

Wednesday, April 8, 10:00 am- Noon

Facilitator: Jordana Silvestri

Fee: \$20, supplies included.

#### GARDEN STEPPING STONES: 2 PARTS

Learn techniques to make your very own garden stones. Add color and whimsy to your yard or garden. Learn to use glass and tile while having creative fun.

Part 1: Friday, April 10, 1:30-4:30 pm

Part 2: Friday, April 17, 1:30-3:00 pm

Facilitator: Linda K.

Fee: \$35, supplies included.

#### FLAT STAINED GLASS MOSAIC: 2 PARTS

Create an 8"x10" mosaic with an abstract or realistic design while learning to use the tools and tricks of the medium. It's great fun, and stained glass is always beautiful.

Part 1: Saturday, April 11, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Part 2: Saturday, April 18, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Facilitator: Traci Kelly

Fee: \$35, supplies included

#### CROCHET FOR ALL \*NEW CLASS\*

For anyone interested in learning how to turn yarn into something, anything, with the help of a hook! This class will help a newbie learn basic stitches and potentially a motif! We will also talk about materials, design ideas after mastering the basics, and resources for further learning. Seasoned crocheters welcome as we can practice other methods like: corner to corner, Tunisian, and mosaic crochet.

Saturday, April 11, 1:30- 3:30 pm

Facilitator: Wini Quartermaine

Fee: \$20

Supplies: there will be some hooks to borrow and some yarn to play with. You may also bring your own if you prefer. Suggested size of hook: 5.0mm, 5.5mm, or 6.0mm; Suggested size yarn: 4 weight.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### APRIL

#### LEARNING TO DRAW: THE GRID: 2 PARTS

You'll create your own grid sheet, select an image from our samples, learn to enlarge or reduce an image by using this grid method. Supplies will be provided during the first workshop but you'll be given a list to acquire for your continued use.

Part 1: Wednesday, April 15, 10:00 am- Noon

Part 2: Wednesday, April 22, 10:00 am- Noon

Facilitator: Tony Russo

Fee \$45

#### WRITING WITH RUMI

After listening to selected poems by Rumi, participants will imagine and write creative responses to them. They will discover that these poems are pulling them out of their habitual ways of thinking and discover their deeper concerns and joy.

Thursday, April 16, 1:30-3:30 pm

Facilitator: Dr. Annick Safken

Fee: \$20, Supplies included

#### DIY ART TRADING CARDS \* NEW CLASS\*

Learn about the Creatives Trading Cards Project while making your very own mixed media art trading card in this international modern art movement.

Saturday, April 18, 1:00-2:30 pm

Facilitator: Inktuce

Fee: \$20, Supplies included

#### PHOTOGRAPHY: THE ART OF SEEING 2

##### Parts \*NEW CLASS\*

Using your phone's camera and WomanKraft's building and grounds, we'll focus on training your eye to capture the best photograph possible, framing areas, objects and lighting.

Part 1: Saturday, April 22, 1:30- 3:30 pm

Part 2: Saturday, April 29, 1:30- 3:30 pm

Facilitator: Steve Renzi

Fee: \$30- Be sure your batteries are charged

#### WISE WOMAN'S WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn to tap your infinite wisdom and playfully connect with your inner writer. We will journal with writing exercises, topics, and creative surprises.

Friday, April 24, 10:00 am-Noon

Facilitator: Ingrid Aspromatis

Fee: \$20.

#### CONFIDENT ACRYLICS \*NEW CLASS\*

In 2.5 hours you'll complete a beautiful painting—even if you've never painted before. 'Talent' is overrated... all it takes is desire! Experienced painter already? Mernie has taught unique techniques to hundreds of students at every level. Everyone walks out amazed.

Friday, April 24, 1:30-4:30 pm

Facilitator: Mernie Buchanan

Fee: \$30, supplies included



Deco Dame 1 - Loni Lees

## **ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**

Saturday, January 3, 2026- 10-NOON (9:30-10:00  
Coffee and Bagels)

Our WomanKraft Board's annual meeting will be held. Open to board members and proposed new members. Business will be reported in Volume 79 of the Castle Voice.

## **THE NEW AND IMPROVED ANNUAL RUMMAGE FAIR**

Saturday, January 10, 2026- 10am-6pm

It's a one day event this year with only high end quality items being offered. Call to see if your donation works for this sale. We are accepting deliveries of goods until January 3, 2026. Call 520-256-7455 or speak with a docent Thursday-Saturday 1-5pm. Volunteers needed! Be sure to come by, tell family and friends, spread the word through all your social media. We need help with setting up and working the fair plus clean up. Please sign up with us ASAP! Thank you so very much, let's make this our best rummage fair ever!

## **HOW TO KEEP THE CASTLEVOICE COMING TO YOU-**

You can find the Castle Voice on our website: [www.womankraft.org](http://www.womankraft.org) but if you prefer to be mailed a hard copy of this newsletter you may become a member or request to be added to the mailing list. January 2026 our mailing list will be cleaned up to be reflective of people who are actively interested in receiving a Castle Voice in the mail. So please contact us ASAP in person or by phone during business hours or email us at [WomanKraftaz@gmail.com](mailto:WomanKraftaz@gmail.com) to ensure your place on the list today! Thank you for helping us reduce the high cost of printing and mailing the Voice. To renew or pay your membership dues go to our scadlr page or scan the QR code on the inside cover and once there look for "products". Make sure to complete the Google form.

## **UPDATES AND THANKS**

This first update begins with the twinge of sadness and much gratitude. James Aspromatis who has been hanging our shows for many many years has decided to retire. Thank you, James, for all your time and energy. You've done a lot of beautiful exhibits and it's been a pleasure working with you. So enters Tony Russo and Steve Renzi to take up the mantle. We're sure it will be equally successful. We also wish to thank Brenda Gilbert for generating the funds to repair the remaining problems our roof was having including the removal of another tree limb from the Sanctuary roof. We're all hoping our winter rains will be kinder than our summer and autumn ones. Further thanks go out to Jordana Silvestri, Lauralee Simon, and Tony Russo for helping to keep our grounds, porch and sidewalks looking so good. In August, while the gallery was closed, Tony Russo took on the job of attaching wooden slats to many of the walls rather than continuing to pound nails into the bricks. The rooms were also patched, then painted, and the gallery cleaned up. Brenda Gilbert volunteered to wash and wax the floors to a beautiful shine. Thank you both for jobs well done. We've had many events in this last trimester and hence many thanks to go out to you folks who volunteered your time and energy making them happen for all to enjoy: Annick Safkin, Tony Russo, Jasper Kasper, Caroline Latron, Brenda Gilbert, Steve Renzi and Traci Kelly. Once again Traci Kelly has stepped up to WomanKraft's needs. She's been researching and writing grants and organizing cleaning projects with students from her school, Desert View High School: Celine Mercado Gamez, Juliana Dutton, Anissa Montiel, Lilyana Holley, Kian Magundayao, Zinahi Campillo Marquez, Iris Hernandez and Eva Morales de Leon. Traci also partnered up with the Sunnyside District High School Orchestra teacher, Luis Alarcon, to provide live music for our opening night of the Holiday Bazaar and our November concert. Thank you, Angel Romo Esquivel, Andy Nyuyen, Mallaya Chandler, Jimena Caporal Carbajal, Yanderline Durate and Yaretzi Duarte!

Traci also teaches great workshops, places her art in

## NEWS & EVENTS

most of our exhibits, shops online for us when we can't find it locally, and works with me planning our events. How can we say thank you often enough? She and her husband, Albert, are essential to the completion of the Castle Voice. In fact, Traci is our interviewed artist for this issue. Please read it following my column.

Finally, we have recently lost a major contributor to our school of the arts, and it will cause some major adjustments to our program. We will not be able to provide as many free classes to our low-income over 50 population and other workshops will see marginal cost increases. Even with these changes our workshops will remain very affordable compared to others offered around Tucson. We are working on grants, foundations, and private sources to address all of our needs. Already we've had people step forward with increased donations. We ask all of you to consider what you are able to do. Ways you can support Womankraft include: becoming a member or renewing your membership, volunteering for events, docenting, helping with building maintenance, and of course, contributing funds. Please remember WomanKraft has survived and grown for 51 years based on contributions that range from a few dollars to thousands. Consider searching your hearts and becoming an active supporter of this lovely space. Please look at the schedule of events, spread the word, and attend the receptions with all of your friends. Share our posts on social media and tag us when you post. Come and purchase one of a kind affordable art at WomanKraft.

Thank you one and all for your consideration and help. You are part of something bigger than yourself and that is beautiful.

**In love and gratitude Gayle Swanbeck.**

### ARTIST INTERVIEW

Most people who live in Tucson have awakened to an inspiring sunlit morning. Few, I would imagine, have been asked to conduct an interview with an artist, who for decades, has sought to: "work on something bigger than myself," and "for it to exist beyond my

lifetime." It is a challenge, of course, to capture that range in a small quintet of questions. More challenging, however, is the fact that our featured artist, Traci Kelly, happens to be someone I've known for 28 years. I'm quite lucky to be a first hand witness, and sometimes, participant, in her extensive catalog of "doing" art throughout the decades. Classes and events, teaching and creating, students and teachers, young and old. My own professional life has grown richer in experience as a result of her busy hands piecing together her own style of art. On another level, I admit my personal sentiments written here may be skewed by the fact that Traci is my wife; but I can undoubtedly assure you that the paintings and mosaics, acrylics or oils, textiles or metals, found objects or clay, are created out of an authentic desire to "make" art. This is unmistakable! She is not herself when she's not making art. She is set on discovering purpose in life by creating: an act we should all aspire to do each day. So, it is my delightful honor to present to you, my wife, Traci Kelly.

1. Your life blends so many roles — artist, teacher, board member, mother, volunteer coordinator, and digital systems-builder for the gallery. When you look at everything you do, what part of your work feels most connected to your purpose as an artist?

I'm incredibly grateful for all of the opportunities WomanKraft Art Center has opened up to me. Connecting with other artists has been invaluable. Artists often survive on their own and it can be an introspective life. I realize how important it is to make connections and spread our expressions throughout the community. It's important to continue to be a voice of kindness, beauty and light in a time when the world can sometimes feel so dark. Tucson is an amazing community filled with vibrant, talented people. I hope that when others see my efforts it inspires them to engage with those around them and help others see the importance of celebrating the arts.

2. You've helped modernize the class booking system at WomanKraft. What motivated you to take on such transformative work, and how has it changed the way the community connects with the arts?

## ARTIST INTERVIEW

Streamlining our online booking system through Scadler was something that needed to be done. Many people saw the need but were reluctant because we all have busy lives or the technology was intimidating. When I officially became a boardmember, I thought, I'm going to really do some things that matter! Thankfully, with some help from Rene Stone, I was able to hit the ground running. She made some suggestions that really helped me get started. Getting our classes up on Scadlr was a big step and it streamlines our system while giving teachers agency to manage their rosters. I encourage you to scan the QR code on the front page of the Castle Voice and check it out for yourself.

3. As a feminist, educator, and creative person, how do those identities shape the environment you try to create for students and fellow artists at the gallery?

I want to reiterate that WomanKraft is for everybody! We love every gender, every ethnicity and every economic status. Art is for everyone and WomanKraft is an equitable organization. A classroom and gallery should be welcoming to all. I want people to feel safe in my classroom. Safe to express themselves, safe to relax and safe to enjoy the processes. I look at teaching as a reawakening of the memories within our soul. I'm only there to help people realize things they already knew. Those are the biggest moments of joy for me as a teacher.

4. Despite your packed schedule, how do you still carve out a couple of hours a month to make your own art?

Honestly, creativity comes in waves. All creative people get a block from time to time. I remember during the covid years, there was a period of at least 6-7 months that I lost the ability to make even a drawing. The collective conscience was hurting so badly. At this time in my life I feel a waterfall of inspiration washing over me wherever I look. I literally have a list of about 20 mosaic pieces lined up- and the materials to do them! I just lack the time. I also need to have all my ducks in a row to get to creating. I can't have a to-do list lingering in the back of my head and create. With my busy life, I can barely

find a moment to make my work outside of summer break. But I'm constantly plotting and planning. I'm extremely grateful to have a loving partner who supports me every step of the way. Without his backing I would never be able to make all of the commitments I make.

5. You've said that being a mother is your greatest joy. How does motherhood influence your artistic voice, your leadership, and the way you show up for the nonprofit community?

As an artist my grandest creation is my daughter, Penelope and my son, Hunter. They are the most amazing people I've ever known. Parenting is not easy when you're trying to teach your children to be productive, happy and kind people. Thankfully, they're perfect on their own. I know I spend too much time on my responsibilities at WomanKraft and teaching at Desert View High School but I hope that they can see that I'm working on something bigger than myself for the betterment of the community. I want the legacy of WomanKraft to live on and for it to exist beyond my lifetime and that's the kind of world I want to leave to my children!



WomanKraft  
388 S. Stone Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
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[www.womankraft.org](http://www.womankraft.org)



Photo by Jonathan DuHamel

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