Bio for Nikki Pynn

1980- present: Stained Glass Work. I chose stained glass as my main medium while attending Virginia Commonwealth University, where I earned a BFA in Painting and Printmaking, 1980, I worked in my own, self-taught style until 1989 when I became employed by Sledd/ Winger Studio, Richmond, VA. There, I learned the traditional method of making stained glass panels. I continued perfecting my skills in that manner until 2012. At that time, I decided to experiment with glass in found objects. My first piece was in a bike wheel sitting in a stand that allowed it to rotate. I went on to try working in broken and out of date objects I happened to have. A fish growing wings to survive it’s new situation and a rabbit with moving ears in a TV antenna grew out of those pieces. I returned to my original self-taught style mixed with traditional methods. My work has evolved from using traditional methods of working in stained glass, inserted into recycled bike parts to layering of glass pieces surrounded by lead or zinc and physically supporting each other to develop a stronger piece.

Public Works:

2004- Giles County Bicentennial Tile Wall. I conducted 800 students, ages 10 - 14, in the process of decorating 800 tiles with underglaze. Tiles were installed as a wall outside of the Giles County Courthouse the same year.

2014- Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, Galax, VA, public mosaic, glass on fiberglass bass fiddle.

2015- ReNew the New Program, Giles County Chamber of Commerce, public sculpture, “Turmoil That Got Us Here”, recycled glass and propane canisters from the New River clean up.

2015-2018 ReNew the New Program, community sculpture, “A Part, Not Apart”,

Recycled glass from the New River clean up, stained glass scraps, concrete cylinder test plugs. Construction of recycled glass and stained glass scraps to cylinders by community members, stacked to become a 9’ tapering tower.

2016 Floyd Center of the Arts, Floyd VA. public sculpture, temporary,, “Pillar of the Community”, bike parts and mosaic of stained glass.

2017 Chantilly Farm, Floyd, VA. public sculpture, “Hold Sway”, recycled bike parts and stained glass.

2017-18 Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, Galax, VA. Community Mosaic, 29 foot by three foot wall known as Grayson Street Stage, mosaicked with 50 pounds of donated pottery and scrap stained glass. Included two scheduled days of community members installing pieces as they chose, along with individuals adding pieces during professional install days.

2017 - 2021 Prices Fork Renovation, Prices Fork, VA, Community Sculpture, wall of clay tiles impressed with antique tools loaned from Prices Fork residents and descendants, clay tiles housed in barnwood boxes made by Blacksburg High School students.

2018 Artlandia, Inc, Tree Streets Community Sculpture, Johnson City, TN, “Cycle of Support”. Partnered with welder, Barry Keller, to create 18’ steel kinetic sculpture with mosaic walkway. Recycled steel pipe and plates, bike parts, glass, stone, sand.

2019: Kinetic sculpture of bike parts and stained glass, temporary exhibit, Radford, VA

2019: Indoor Community Mural, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, Galax, VA

2020 Mural, New River Valley Rent All, Radford, VA

2021 Indoor Mural, Virginia Tech University, Squires Hall, 3rd floor, Blacksburg, VA

2022 Mural, Pickle and Ash Restaurant, Stuart, VA