

Get to Know the Artists in *Color*: Eileen Fitz-Faulkner

Several of the *Art in the Arboretum: Color* participants shared their personal histories and thoughts on art and being an artist by responding to the following questions.



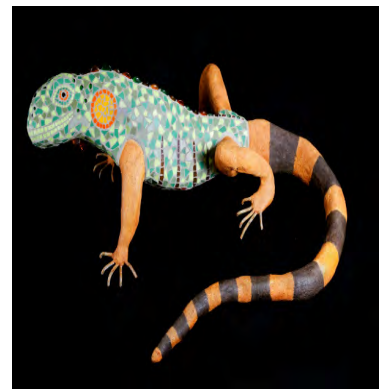
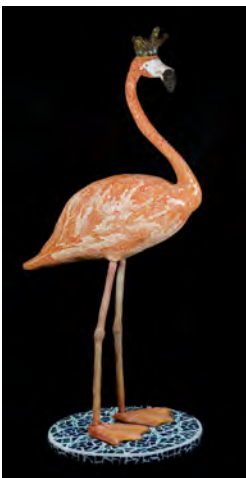
What person, place, or event has been a primary influence on your work and why?

The artist that has inspired my work most is Niki de saint Phalle. Not only is she a mosaic maven, but her work is exuberant and joyful. Much of the work she creates is for exterior spaces. Though I had known about her work for years, it wasn't until I had a chance to crawl inside a piece that the magic struck. I loved how the work she created was also an exploration. She didn't get caught up in realism but created with such gusto and a playful attitude. I'm inspired by how colorful and spontaneous her work is. She was always

experimenting with new ways of doing things and developing her ideas as she went along. As far as place, that may be The Ruth Bancroft gardens. Every summer they have a one-month sculpture show. Once I began to place work in the gardens, I was inspired by the many sculptural forms of the plants and spent many hours imagining what would be fun to see in those gardens in coming years.

What adjectives best describe you as an artist/person? Passionate, curious, and focused.

What adjectives best describe your work? Amusing, colorful, whimsical.



If you had a personal philosophy/motto, what would it be? As far as making art goes, my motto would be "Get in your studio and allow the muse to take you places you wouldn't go

to in your head.”

What might surprise someone about you/your work? I often feel I need to create serious art. I get caught up in the verbiage of “what is art?” Does it need to make a statement about politics, social, or world issues? Or can it just be playful, fun to make? Can enjoying the process of making it be art, too? Now and then I will actively respond to an art call to answer (in visual form) some of those questions that speak to me.

What are your thoughts on the Color Exhibit (an integration of the beauty of nature with the beauty of sculpture)? I love seeing color in the garden. So often people plant flowers to be a splash of color, but flowers are often so ephemeral. Art can be the splash of surprise and delight that highlights the landscape. The work chosen for this show is a great integration of both color and shapes that work to enhance both the art and the plant forms. I think the work here adds a lot of punch and spark to the landscape. The way they are carefully placed to lead the viewer to discover each new work just around a corner brings a sense of delight.

View more of Fitz-Faulkner's art at www.scapeartsculpture.com