

## **Francie Klopotic**

Francie is an Augusta, Georgia-based artist whose professional art career began in 2018 when she picked up her pencils after a long hiatus. She initially focused on drawing photorealistic portraits of popular musical icons using graphite, charcoal and colored pencils. The portraits attracted attention on social media as well as in the local media. Soon she was creating commissioned pieces not only for locals but also for enthusiasts across the United States.

In 2019, Francie began showing her work in group exhibitions and had her first solo show in 2020. In 2021 she picked up a paintbrush for the first time. Her bold and expressive use of color gained her additional followers and collectors. Francie was featured in two solo exhibitions in 2023, where her bright iconic portraits took center stage. The successful shows garnered her additional media attention, including three television appearances.

Francie was invited to join the Augusta artist collective Artzilla in 2021 where she painted live during the ArtsCity Festival. In 2023, a public art jury selected her to paint one of Augusta's iconic pianos for the Jessye Norman School of the Arts. In 2024, she was guest curator for the Voices of Augusta II show at Augusta & Co. Gallery and juried into the Augusta Handmade Fair and the Euphoria Arts Festival.

In 2025, Francie began an exciting journey, following a new innovative muse as she began experimenting with watercolor on tree-free paper. She discovered that colors blended in unique ways that she could not replicate on tree-based paper. Primordial yet ethereal, the images began a new series of abstracts called Mother of Creation/Temple of the Womb.

Francie works in multiple mediums including acrylics, graphite, watercolors, colored pencils, oils, and oil pastels, creating brightly colored portraiture and abstract artworks. She creates art that is inspired by musicians and artists who have influenced her life since childhood. Favorite visual artists and influences include Peter Max, Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Yoko Ono, and Alex Katz.

Francie has recently been juried into multiple group exhibitions in the Atlanta area and is currently creating bodies of work for an upcoming solo show, as well as for a two-woman exhibition focused on Black History and Stories for the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History. Her work can be found at the Art on Broad retail gallery in downtown Augusta.