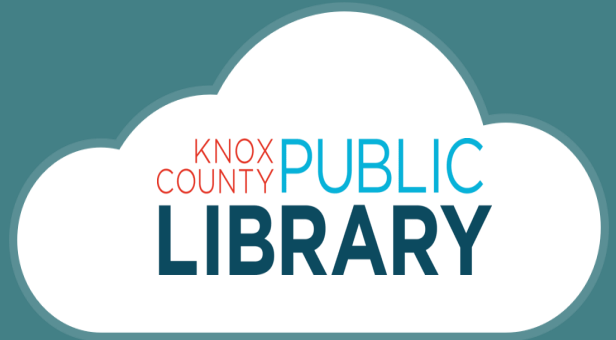




2018 Storm Drain Artists



David Jones

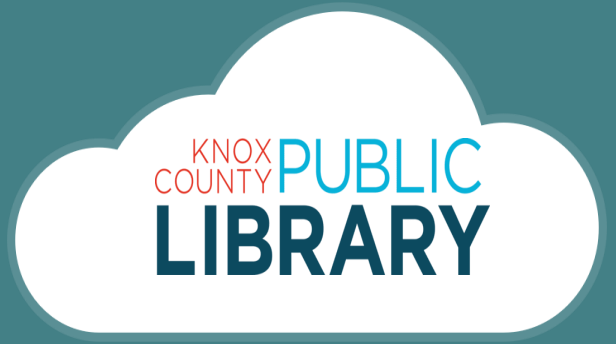
Artist Bio:

David is a native Knoxvilleian who attended Doyle High School, class of 1977, and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Illustration. He has one daughter; she turned 21 in October. He is not married and lives alone with his dogs.

Art Statement:

Isaac Newton said that "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction". When we dump waste down the storm drains, most of us don't really think about what or whom we are affecting. Not only do we affect the ground water, but also the smaller aquatic animals that make their homes in the wetlands, creeks, and rivers. Imagine if someone came into your home, slung paint, oil, and dirt all over the walls, and just left without an explanation, and you couldn't do anything about it. I just want people to become aware that no matter how small the action may seem, the resulting reaction could be Earth-changing.





Corelli

Corey Pope and Elli McNall

Artist Bio:

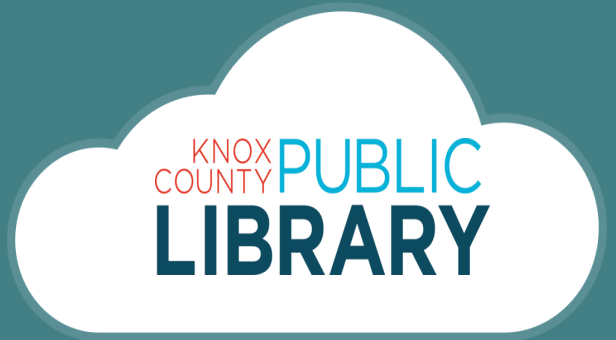
Corey Pope is a multimedia artist born in South Carolina in 1990. He received his BFA in Drawing and Painting in 2014 from Winthrop University. Since then he has gone on to work as a freelance illustrator, graphic designer, airbrush artist, caricature artist, as well as a painting instructor. Pope is currently teaching art to children in the Knoxville area and busy running Corelli Art Studio with his wife.

Elli McNall was raised in Columbia, South Carolina, where she cultivated a love of art, color, and paper hoarding early on. She earned her BFA in Painting and Printmaking from Winthrop University in 2015. Elli is an up and coming maximalist mixed media artist based in Knoxville, whose work is as colorful and whimsical as it is intricately layered and time consuming. Eli is devoted to hard work, recycling, and imagination.

Art Statement:

When searching for a new place to move, we stumbled upon Knoxville, TN. We quickly fell in love with the closeness of the Urban Wilderness and the Smoky Mountain National Park to the city. Our state is abundant with creatures big and small and their unique environments. When combining city and natural life together, there are often special considerations that we can make to create a more harmonious relationship for all involved. One thing we can do is watch what we pour into our water sources to keep Tennessee beautiful from the ground up.





Mene Manresa Bodipo

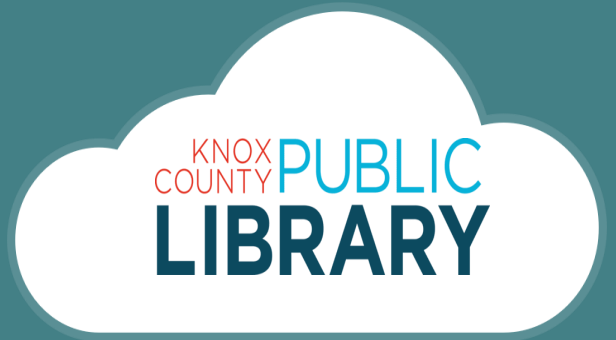
Artist Bio:

Desiderio “Mene” Manresa Bodipo, was born in Annobón Island, Equatorial Guinea, in December 8 of 1979. From an early age, he was a student of the School of Drawing, Painting, and Ceramics in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Mene has grown up in a cultural environment that has made him a multifaceted painter. He has participated in many art competitions in Equatorial Guinea and won several awards. He has dedicated himself to graphic design, sculpture, crafts, animation, and circus arts. In 2011, in a cultural exchange, he presented his first tour in the United States, where he showed his art work in different States. He also participated in a course focused on changing communities through art and talks with students from various Universities and artistic groups. In his career as an artist, he has already presented five art exhibitions and is working to present his sixth at the Emporium Art Center in Knoxville by November.

Art Statement:

This work is my contribution towards mental change and the impact that we can sensitize with art in our community. Respect for life and protection is very important in every society; we must avoid all kinds of pollution. The drains in our cities reach the rivers, and in these rivers live many types of species; the best way to protect these species is to avoid all types of pollution in the drains. My art is colorful and striking, and the message is very clear, because keeping our drains clear is the best way to protect the environment.





Christine Palmer

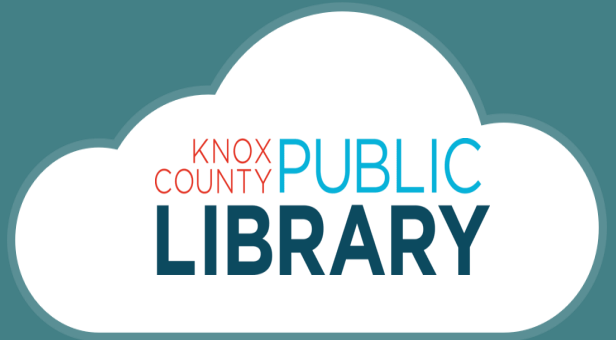
Artist Bio:

Growing up, drawing and painting were always something that Christine loved to do and it gave her a peaceful way to retreat inside her imagination. Even in school, it was too tempting to fill the empty margins of her homework with squiggles and doodles. That love continued through college, where she graduated with a degree in graphic design. She enjoyed the work, but began to lose the passion, so she took a step back to focus on other things. Years later, Christine got the chance to design her first chalkboard at a local restaurant. That was almost ten years ago, and she still loves getting her hands covered in chalk dust or opening up a fresh jar of paint. Each new project teaches her something new or presents some new challenge to overcome. It gives her a wonderful way to spend time with her two children, who are daydreamers and painters themselves. Christine is sure there will be a lot of homework doodling in their future, too!

Art Statement:

Many plants and animals live and depend on the water that flows from the smallest creeks to the mightiest of rivers. It is easy to forget just how much we are all connected and bonded by water. Respect the creatures by protecting the waters.





Julia Widby

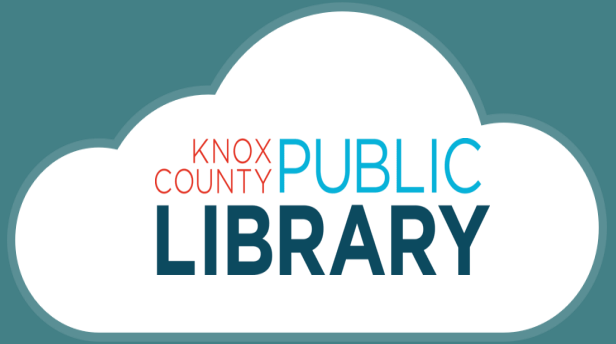
Artist Bio:

Julia Widby is an artist by heart. She currently works at Reilly foods (aka JFG) for new, and thankful beginnings, and worked at Wright's cafeteria prior for almost three years where she met, and loved many people. She loves living in Knoxville for its natural beauty. Julia has lived here all her life. Her family settled in East Tennessee since before the 1800's. She graduated from Pellissippi State Community College with an Associate Degree of Science, and from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts, concentrated in painting. Her current works includes making approximately 256 comics for a writer which will be published as a book, and commission paintings, as well as personal paintings, such as portraits, animals, nature, and abstract expressionism. Creating art is important to her, and it brings her inner peace, happiness, and a sense of accomplishment, and success. It is something she loves to do, needs to do, and strives to do.

Art Statement:

My storm drain is shaped like a giant racing helmet. It shows the story of the tortoise, and the hare having a race to keep it clean. You see, many do not stop, think, and or even take a little time, or action to prevent our local storm water system from being polluted. Whatever the many reasons, such as laziness, or not even being aware of the fact that our storm drains go directly to our rivers, and streams. I chose the moral of this particular story, because it shows that slow, and steady wins. Using the same principle towards keeping our drains clean from pollution, even if it's little by little, would make a huge difference. I also chose this story, because of the fact that Knoxville itself is covered with nature, and has huge animal population, including lots of rabbits, and turtles. I wanted my drain to be seen as a part of Knoxville.





Eric Johnson

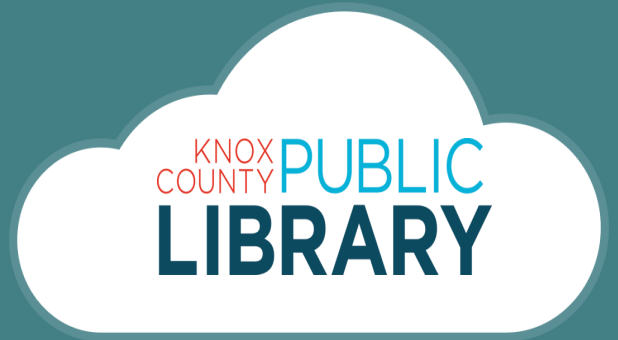
Artist Bio:

Eric is a loving husband and father of two. He has always enjoyed doing art. He started painting graffiti with friends at Laurel High School in 1995. Other than Laurel High, he is a self-taught artist. Eric started tattooing in 2004 and currently works at Distinked Tattoos on Broadway in Maryville, TN.

Art Statement:

I tried to make it as bright as possible to draw attention. I chose a turtle and a snake. One is cute and the other can be dangerous. I figured if they work together they could definitely bring awareness!!!!





Thomas Zachary

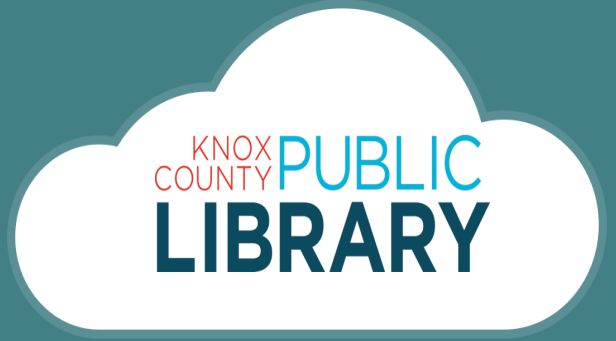
Artist Bio:

Thomas Zachary is a 27-year old multimedia artist, who most often works with digital mediums, followed closely by tangible geometric art. He works on multiple scales from desktop 3D printed objects, all the way up to full-sized wall murals, and everything in-between.

Art Statement:

A bright and simple design with the message closest to the viewer to get the point across first and then the visual elements closer to the drain to imply that only water should slip through the grates of the drain. "Stormwater Only" is a somewhat stern message countered by the soft and bright nature of the water drops. Stormwater in, stormwater out!





Makala Wetherbie

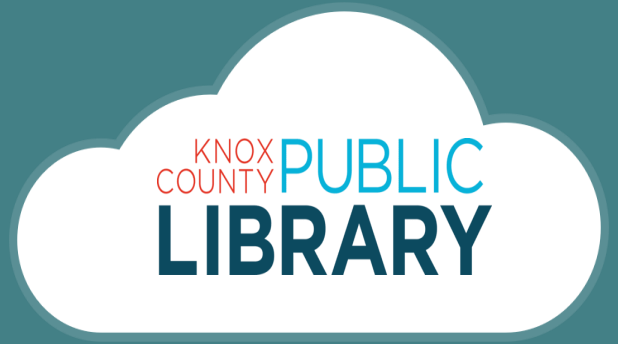
Artist Bio:

Makala Wetherbie is 15 years old and has been painting and drawing for almost three years. Some of the things she likes to do are volleyball, playing with her cats, helping her mom, and helping people when they need it. Makala also likes going to the zoo and seeing how many kinds of animals she knows by heart.

Art Statement:

The artwork you see here is one of my favorite paintings. I decided to use this painting for the storm drain contest to help people not to litter. I love to look at the beautiful river where the sun hits on it. If there's trash in the river, it will no longer be beautiful.





Genevieve Trent

Artist Bio:

Genevieve Trent grew up in the Secret City and has worked in the visual and performing arts for most of her life. She participated and placed in many regional competitions in high school, as well as attending Governor's School for the Arts. Genevieve has a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design from the UTK School of Architecture and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. Genevieve is a regular featured performer in the Knoxville Fringe Art Community. She dedicates this piece to her stepbrother, a mural painter, who is coping with the struggles of LHON.

Art Statement:

This piece showcases the unique metropolitan and environmental elements of our beloved Knoxville. On the left, the raccoon embodies the spirit of the numerous parks and area's greenways. The pink quarry represents the Tennessee Marble that has been used in noteworthy construction across North America. On the right, the city skyline features the Sunsphere (of the 1982 World Fair) and has a member of the raccoon's "superfamily", the red panda. The Knoxville Zoo is known internationally for their conservation efforts, specifically for their great achievements in red panda births. In the center of the water, a river otter (a species that lives throughout East Tennessee and are a joy to watch at the zoo) peeks out, linking the city and nature scene together.

