

I feel as if everything I have ever done with art has led me where I am today. I owe everything I have to art. My father is an artist who would not have conceived me had art not led him to my mother. My life would have never taken the twists and turns it did without art to open the doors and help me through them. And art has led me to Aaron and this beloved, beloved community. Creativity, for me, has always been a way of life...a survival tool. I use art to digest my environment and experiences, it helps me understand the world and my place in it. Being part of this community and the BCP is an honor and accepting the position of artistic director is the next great adventure. I have thrived artistically in the Village for the past six years and the Beloved Community Project is the next step towards giving back to my community that has given me so much.

I am currently a preschool teacher at the Community Children's Center and I enrich their art programs and activities. I am a mother, a loctician, a folk artist, and a townie. In previous years I have taught art workshops through the Yellow Springs Arts Council and private local students. I have shown my work in countless local and regional venues. This past year I had gallery showings at the Yellow Springs Arts Council, the Chris K Gallery, the Yellow Springs Brewery, and the Art Hop! I travel with my work to festivals and events, and I take on commissions whenever given the opportunity. I am passionate about teaching, especially children, as I see their creativity as art's purest form. My outlets include but will never be limited to assemblage, collage, cello and piano, painting, clay, murals,

portraiture, drawing, craft, and three-dimensional work. My artistic heroes are Alphonse Mucha, Nathan Spoor, and Alex Grey-not to mention so many other artists right here in my community! I have been showing my work since I was 12 years old and have always met with success and encouragement. Many homes in the Village carry my work on their walls. I have done logo work for many local businesses and I served on the Yellow Springs Arts Council Board of Trustees. I am most thrilled about my upcoming work with the Beloved Community Project and the Bahnsen Gallery. I believe that art is a verb, not a still life. And with the historical issues facing the human race today, art is everything. Art forces people to take in another perspective, art captures the things we cannot say.

My upbringing in a home that provided care for foster siblings with extreme injuries brought me into contact with life's complexities at a very young age, and I carry those lessons with me every day. I was moved again very deeply as a high school student working with Burundian Refugees in Dayton-leaving me struck with a great awareness of humanity. My first experience as an advocate for artists was with the WAYS program here in Yellow Springs in 2012. I went on to take a commissions from the Young American Libertarians of Ohio and drew political sketches for *The Millennial* in 2013. I have several shows coming up under my trademark "Art by Ace" which was created in 2011. I have been an active community member since I moved here and I now live in the Vale!

My life choices that some would call "unique" are born from these experiences and greatly influence my art. I am self-taught and draw inspiration from the Spirit world and my own environment. I make the majority of my pieces with recycled or found materials, which I believe is another way of digesting my surroundings and giving back. I have a studio here in Yellow Springs and plan to stay here as long as I can. I want everything I do in life to be a work of art, not just what I paint or build. Meeting Ryan has been the most pivotal moment of my life and work as he is my soul mate and has given me my daughter, Presley, my masterpiece. Together over the years we have organized many events and causes. With your help I want to create a forward thinking, powerful, unique, art community that supports the BCP values and the greater good. My journey, the BCP, and art itself have one thing in common...the sum is greater than the parts. I am committed to serving this community with all my heart and with all my talents. My full resume will be on file with the BCP permanently and I can be contacted via email ([burkeanna78@gmail.com](mailto:burkeanna78@gmail.com)) or by phone (937-477-77039).