

The Happy Lark Art Studio

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Outside of Studio

Photo by Kristal Petruzzi 2015



Inside of Studio

Photo by Jennifer Furr 2016

By Jennifer Furr

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Photo by Jennifer Furr 2016

The Happy Lark Art Studio

The Happy Lark Art Studio was founded by owner Kristal Petruzzi in September of 2015. Petruzzi specializes in teaching drawing and painting classes for both children and adults, and offers a wide variety of art supplies, jewelry, and clothing in her studio store. Classes vary each month, but ongoing classes include: weekly community paint nights, kids' paint nights, intuitive painting classes, and comic style drawing classes. Kids' art classes are offered weekly after school, and adult classes are given during both AM and PM sessions. Assemblage/sculpture classes are offered most months. Private parties are scheduled by appointment.

- Store hours (for browsing and buying) : Wednesday through Friday, 9 AM to 8 PM (or by appt.)
- Adult AM classes: 10 AM – 12 PM (days vary)
- Adult PM classes: 12 PM – 2 PM and 6 PM – 8 PM (days vary)
- Adult Paint Night: 6 – 8 PM on Fridays and/or Saturday
- Kids' After-school classes: 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM, 4:30 PM - 6 PM (days vary)
- Kids' Paint Night : 5 PM – 8 PM (days vary)

For complete listing and days, visit : [Calendar of Events — Happy Lark Art Studio](#)



Photo by Jennifer Furr 2016

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Mission: To bring Art to the small community of Crestview, Florida.

“We want to bring recognition to the value of Art,” said Petruzzi. “People do not insist on Art being in schools here. There is no money in public schools for Art supplies. We wanted to build a stronghold here, to have a consistency with a presence. We hope it will be a place for other artists to come and build an Art community.” (K. Petruzzi, personal communication, March 31, 2016)



Successes: Community members frequently patronize the store, especially for Art supplies, happy that there is somewhere to buy them now in Crestview. The general public is supporting the Friday and Saturday night Community Paint Nights, as well.

It is quite a success for the Happy Lark to be able to support beginning artists and just to be able to introduce some of them to Art.

Inside the Studio – Photos by Jennifer Furr 2016

Challenges: The Happy Lark Art Studio is located in a small city, Crestview, Florida, which does not have any galleries or museums to date. Most artists in the community are beginning or closet artists, with no visible presence of established artists. There is currently no strong value nor emphasis on Art in this town.

Future plans: The Happy Lark Art Studio staff wish to educate young people and beginning artists. It is their hope that a love of Art will spread throughout the community, and that practicing Art will no longer be an oddity, but accepted.

“We would love an artist’s market,” said Petruzzi. “People in the community have to think Art is valuable and accepted in order for it to be so. We would like to open minds up to Art, and show that it is beneficial and attainable, and accessible to everyone. Not just a chosen, privileged few.” (K. Petruzzi, personal communication, March 31, 2016)



The Happy Lark Art Studio

Author's Note: The author wishes to thank the owner of the Happy Lark Art Studio, Kristal Petruzzi, for taking time from her family and busy schedule to conduct this interview.

About the Owner: Kristal Petruzzi is currently a small business owner, a former elementary school teacher (for 15 years), a wonderful mom to two sweet boys, a happy wife to a kind husband, a mixed media artist and intuitive painter, and a soulful, amazing human being.

Petruzzi is passionate about Art, and it shows in everything she does and permeates her studio and every day life. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and you can't help but catch the "art bug" after you've been around her for five minutes. She is the biggest art advocate this small town has ever seen.

I attended one of Petruzzi's Community Paint afternoons a few Saturdays ago, as a student, and it was a refreshing experience to take a painting lesson from a teacher with so much joy and enthusiasm for her subject and students. The vibrant paintings and décor in her studio are so representative of her spirit, bright and welcoming, full of energy.

Petruzzi's wish for Crestview to become an artist community, will no doubt come to fruition in years to come, as more residents come into the studio and catch the good vibes of art production and manufacture artful vibes and creations of their own. As students were leaving the studio the day I attended class, they were buzzing around, discussing future alterations to their projects at home, and future projects to create at home. You can't help but catch the positivity from such an uplifting environment.

It is my hope that Mrs. Petruzzi will have her studio open and running for many years to come, and that Crestview will grow into the rich artist community that she envisions and inspires.

Visit her on the web at : <http://www.happylarkartstudio.com/>

Like her on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/happylarkstudio>



References

Petruzzi, K. (2015). The Happy Lark Art Studio. Retrieved from <http://www.happylarkartstudio.com/>