



Claire Pongonis

Visual Artist, arts educator, and community arts advocate with a collaborative and experimental creative style. Providing art engagement through commissioned installations in boutique spaces, expressive collections, hands-on educational opportunities, and curated group exhibitions. Passionate about education, creative expression, equality, and community development.

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Professional Experience:

Assistant Creative Director 2025 - Present

A Bold Collab

Collaborate with Creative Director to conceptualize and produce immersive exhibitions and experiences. Contribute original artwork while supporting creative direction across all aspects of show production. Manage installation logistics, marketing strategy, and administrative tasks to execute curatorial vision. Cultivate relationships with artists, partners, and audiences. Support exhibition branding, design show materials, and represent the organization through public engagement, media appearances, and community events.

Co-Founder 2023 - Present

Women of the Ozarks

Create and develop a collaborative show featuring female -identifying artists from the Ozark Mountain region of Arkansas. Design and curate branding for the organization. Secure locations for traveling show display. Organize artist highlights and marketing, as well as curate shows. Design and provide creative direction for labels, panels, and all show materials. Engage the community through press interviews, opening receptions, and social media. Provide direction for artists from concept through execution of collections for show.

Owner + Artist 2018 - Present

Claire Pongonis Studio

Visual Artist working in contemporary experimental embroidery techniques, along with oil pastel and print-making mediums. Offer hands-on educational opportunities. Provide design and creative content management for diverse clients. Produce ongoing and seasonal collections, as well as commissioned works. Specialize in commissioned thread painting installations in boutique spaces. Manage a thriving creative business's growth, financial aspects, marketing, and ecological considerations.

Creative Services Manager 2017 - 2021

Ryan Engineering, Inc.

Design and oversee corporate branding initiatives for marketing purposes and internal circulation. Develop and manage two corporate websites, create engaging content, and cultivate a strong online presence. Copywrite, edit, and design presentation decks and corporate documents.

Assistant Preparator 2012 - 2014

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Art handling, including transportation, rotation, packing, and unpacking of works for shipment, installation, maintenance, organization, and movement of stored works and vaults within a museum setting. Provided in-house matting and framing of works on paper and designed and constructed displays for exhibitions.

Education & Study Intensives:

John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR

Bachelor of Science in Fine Art and Illustration.

Graduated May 2012

Summer Intensive, Berlin, Germany, Summer 2011

Sequential Art, Plein Air Oil Pastels, and Sketchbook

Journaling courses studied through John Brown University

Selected Shows:

Wintering, A Bold Collab, curated by Andrea Brooks and Claire Pongonis, Fayetteville, AR 2025

Invitations, A Bold Collab, curated by Andrea Brooks and Claire Pongonis, Rogers, AR 2025

Connections, A Bold Collab, curated by Andrea Brooks and Claire Pongonis, Fayetteville, AR 2025

Unbound Spectrum Pop-up, Women of the Ozarks, MIXD Gallery, curated by Claire Pongonis and Tram Colwin, Rogers, AR 2025

M(end), Midnight Gallery, Curated by Emma Nilsson, Bentonville, AR, 2025

Drop 009, MIXD Gallery, curated by Allison Hobbs, Rogers, AR 2024

Petty Not Pretty, Midnight Gallery, Curated by Emma Nilsson, Bentonville, AR, 2025

Small Works, Local Color Studio Gallery, curated by Alex Cogbil, Fayetteville, AR, 2024

Drop 008, MIXD Gallery, curated by Allison Hobbs, Rogers, AR 2024

Feminine Nature, Women of the Ozarks 2024 traveling show, curated by Claire Pongonis and Tram Colwin, Springdale, AR, Siloam Springs, AR, Rogers, AR, Fayetteville, AR, Bentonville, AR, 2024

Blooms, Rhode Island Watercolor Society, Pawtucket, RI 2024

Local Color Studio Gallery, 9th Anniversary Show:

Juried Exhibition, Jurors: Bethany Springer, Jesse Rhames and Jeff Jackson, Fayetteville, AR, 2024

Beauty Shop: Unmasking the Glittering Facade,

Assembly Biannual presented by Interform, curated by Kennedie Daniels, Springdale, AR, 2023

Local Color Studio Gallery, 8th Anniversary Show:

Juried Exhibition, Jurors: Frank Jacobus, Jeannie Hulen and Octavio Logo, Fayetteville, AR, 2023
Winner of Best in Show for *Roark*

Local Color Studio Gallery, 7th Anniversary Show:

Juried Exhibition, Jurors: Laura Terry, Lakeisha Edwards and Shannon Dillard Mitchell, Fayetteville, AR, 2022

Where Color Meets, Solo Show, Ozark Beer Company, Rogers, AR, 2022