

Melissa Restuccia

Educator/Fine Artist

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Melissa Restuccia is currently a high school Art Educator and K-12 Art Department Chairperson at Vestal Central Schools . Her teaching career has spanned twenty 27 years in five local school districts. Melissa received a Master's Degree in Social Science from Binghamton University, Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from Marywood University and an Associate's in Fine Arts from Keystone College. She also received a full Presidential Scholarship to the School of Visual Arts in New York City where she attended for one year and studied Illustration.

Her main body of work was sparked by a reconnection with her spiritual roots and the desire to express herself as a painter. In 2015 she was commissioned to restore /replicate a piece called the Batlló Majesty (a 12th-century Romanesque polychrome wood carving) for a private client. The Batlló commission began her journey into textile patterns which are featured in most of her painting's backgrounds. The predominant subject matter of crows, moths and butterflies were born from her need to universally portray humans and their traits / social constructs such as faith, religion, love and humor.

In 2019 Melissa was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer. This event in her life prompted her to reflect on the journey of so many women. As Melissa followed her cancer treatment she reflected upon her work as a restorationist, and the many statues she repaired/healed. The Catholic Stations of the Cross, and the depiction of Christ's last days on earth became a natural parallel for her personal experience with cancer and the subsequent treatments. She hopes this series, "Stations of My Cancer" gives women and health care providers an opportunity to have a less clinical and more personal conversation about cancer.

Professionally, Melissa Restuccia has been restorationist and design consultant for the Our Lady of Sorrows Church Vestal, NY (2013- present), Holy Family Church, Syracuse, NY, Christ the King , Liverpool, NY and many more churches/patrons. In 2017 She had a one woman show at the Chenango Arts Council, Norwich, NY. In 2019 she was part of the first Broome County Arts Council Art Trail. In March of 2020 she participated in "The World Split Open: Artistic Responses to the Women's Rights Movement & Its Legacy.

She co-organized a retrospective show featuring the works of cartoonist Al Williamson at the Marywood Fine Arts Gallery in 2010. She was named NYSATA Region 4 Art Educator of the Year 2004. Participant and Organizer of the Vestal Staff Art Show 2003 & 2017. She has had cover illustrations published in Discovery at Your Fingertips Series by Highlights for Children (1992) and 6 issues of Hidden Pictures Magazine 1990-91. She served as an adjunct Professor at Marywood University (1998-2003). You can follow her works in progress on Facebook or Instagram at Gray Cat Restoration.

