

Melissa Merendino, BFA



Melissa has been an artist all her life. Born into an artistic family, she was told even her childhood fingerpainting showed promise!

After graduating from Parsons School of Design with a BFA in painting, Melissa continued studying faux and decorative painting at The Finishing School in Long Island under Ina Brouseau Marx, a master decorative painter and restorer. She later studied scenic painting at Cobalt Studio, under Rachel Keebler.

Melissa has created murals and faux finishes for commercial and residential venues. She has designed and executed signature restaurant

works for Dalhr Deluca Ristorante, Maria's Cantina, Los Pinos, Robert Shields' Trixster Cafe in Arizona; Brewtopia, Bentley's Bakery, Martini Bar and The Five Mile River Grille in CT, and Caribbean Affair in NY. As the former art director at the Globe Theater in CT, Melissa designed and executed the interior as well as sets and backdrops.

During her decade-long residence in Sedona, Arizona, Melissa was the scenic painter at the Cougar Moon Theatre. She also taught faux painting for several semesters at the Sedona Arts Center and Northern Arizona University. She taught beginner and intermediate drawing and watercolor as well as faux and decorative painting for their Elder Hostel program, and took part in the celebrity Arts and Doodle Auction as both artist and curator. The cancer benefit auction included works from Ronald Reagan to Walt Disney.

A lifelong equestrian, Melissa has painted many horse murals and animal portraits. She also works as an animal massage therapist and lends her time and artistic abilities as a volunteer at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding in Brewster, NY. A former staff member, Melissa runs an arts and crafts tent at Pegasus' annual horse show to benefit their riders with special needs.

Melissa's inspirations include Georgia O'Keefe, Claude Monet, Mark Rothko and Auguste Rodin. She highly respects nature artist Wyland and would also like to raise planetary awareness through her murals and artwork. It is her life in the beautiful Arizona landscape that inspires her mixed media Sedona Reike Vortex paintings.

Melissa has had many one-woman shows in restaurants and galleries across the tri-state area, as well as Beverly Hills, California, and Sedona, Arizona.

Melissa can be reached at 914.485.1043.