

Tamsin Wolff

Carefree, AZ
tamsynart@gmail.com

As a Studio Art Major at Towson University, Tamsin majored in American Crafts: ceramics, fibers and textiles. For several years she was represented by Tomlinson Galleries in Baltimore before relocating to Washington DC. After teaching art K-8, she completed the MA Museum Education Program at GW and became a museum educator in six different museums on the East Coast with collections in art, history, technology and natural history. Museums tell stories and identify meanings in objects. The same storytelling mindset carries over into the work she now creates – in reaction to travel, museum experiences or life in general. Her nest-making process is similar to contemporary basketry utilizing wire, copper tubing, fibers, and paper wrapped or painted eggs. Her mixed media wall nest series such as “Goose Bumps” and “Protected Feather” are wired for hanging and transition from 2-D to 3-D incorporating vintage and handmade paper collage with real goose eggs or feathers encased in a glass “egg.” Birds use whatever they have at hand! All kinds of materials find their way into Tamsin’s reinterpreted “nests” that are informed by natural history photography of actual wildlife habitats.

“I enjoy the problem-solving nature of creating art and collaborating with others in creative project teams. I spend about 50% of my time creating art on a commission basis or to support museums, educational 501 c3s and other non-profits. I continue to collaborate with museums and cultural organizations as an arts advocate and to develop exhibits and programming that lifts all voices.”

This artwork is being donated as a way to give 100% to the mission of the Desert Foothills Land Trust.

Protected Feather Nest no. 2

Mixed media and measures 9" x 12" x 1.5"

The feather in this series of wall-hung "nests" is protected - as we have been at home – during the pandemic. The feather represents a dream or future goal. Surrounded by clear glass it is a reminder of the importance of seeing this dream every day and protecting it - until it can "fly" again.

“Not all birds fly, or sing, or build nests. Yet all birds share one feature: feathers! No bird lacks them or can survive without them.”

This piece is made with hand-made papers, a purchased glass feather "egg" and is mounted on archival museum board and sprayed with archival finish. The glass is recessed, or "nested" into the board through a cut opening.



*“As a mixed media artist you are sometimes drawn to unusual materials in your travels and the lines become blurred as you move from one purchase to a collector to a hoarder! I was drawn to this feather encased in glass at Bungalow in Scottsdale AZ and purchased two in 2014. Then I found more online at other well know stores such as Pendleton in 2015 and crossed that line into hoarder! The “Floating Feather Collection of 7” grew without any future need or purpose in mind. It was not until the Pandemic that they inspired this series of **Protected Feather Nests**.”*

Tamsin worked at the Textile Museum and was a production weaver for several years before that. Many species of birds also "weave" their nests with their beaks. A hand-made white paper is laced with gold, silver and white threads and recalls that time in her life. The open “weave” of the paper is very similar to the comfort and warmth of a hand-woven afghan. It is superimposed over dark green Thai paper that contains small pieces of wood chips.

You can view more of Tamsin's work at <https://www.groundfloorartists.com/tamsin-wolff-page>