

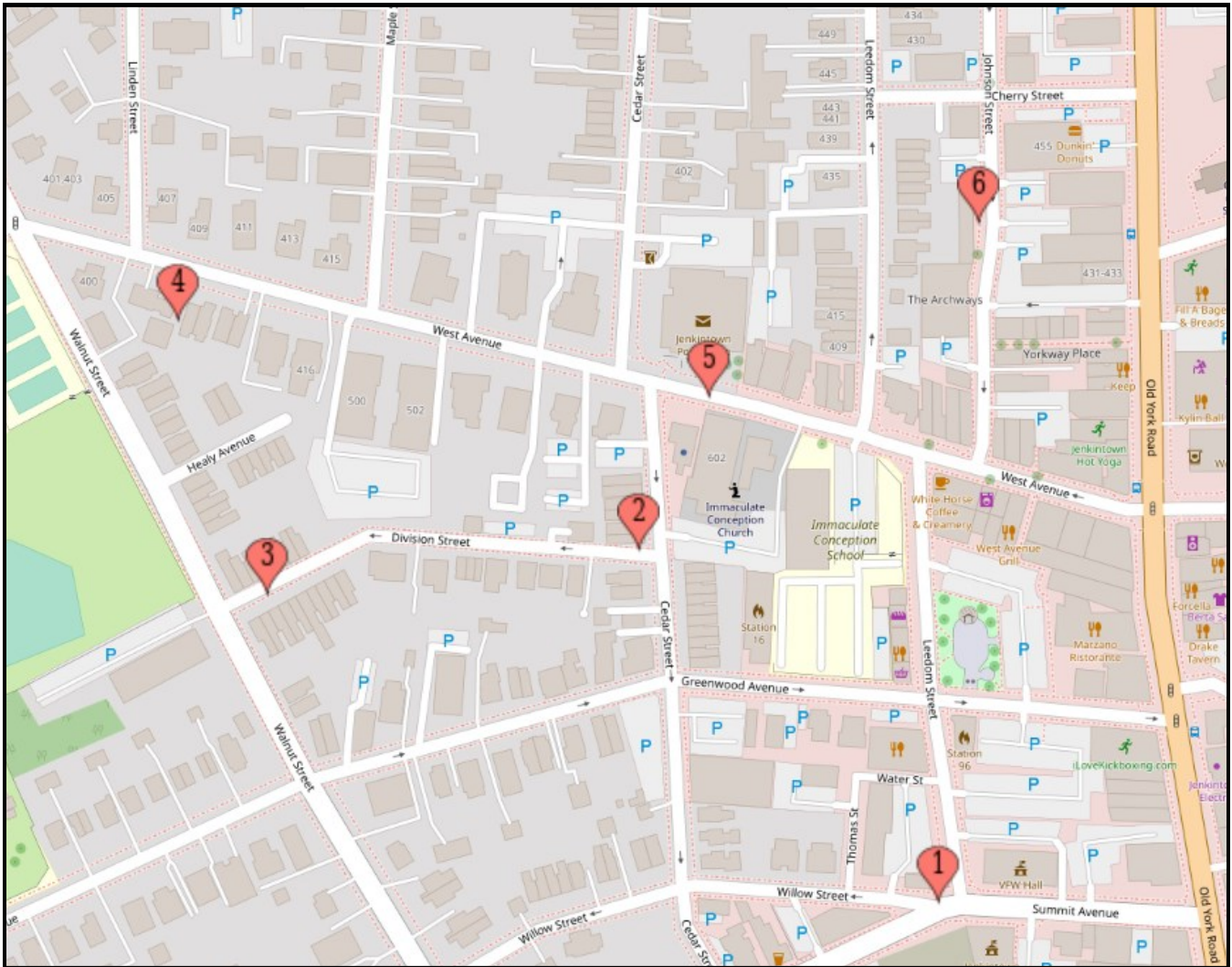
The

Jenkinson

Art

Walk

The Jenkintown Art Walk



Did you know that Jenkintown is like a huge, outdoor art museum?!

Follow the map to see six pieces of public art. At each stop, fill in the answers on the scavenger hunt!

1. Wings mural at Painting with a Twist, by Nicki Kohler - 209 Leedom Street
2. Politis Mosaics, by Rebecca Politis - 315 Cedar Street
3. "Flowers on Division Street" mosaic, by Rebecca Politis - 415 Division Street
4. Sidewalk and stair paintings, by Mary Jane Reilly - 410 West Avenue
5. "HopeFULL Hearts" at This Little Gallery, by Trish and John Miller - 617 West Avenue
6. "Solidarity" mural, by bbsketch - 435 East Johnson Street

Scavenger Hunt

Wings mural at Painting with a Twist, 209 Leedom Street

1. Name two types of insects that have wings like you see on the wall.
2. What does it mean to be “as free as a bird”? How can wings make you feel free?

Politis Mosaics, 315 Cedar Street

3. How many flowers do you see? How are the flowers similar and different?

“Flowers on Division Street” mosaic, 415 Division Street

4. What shapes do you see? Do you notice any different textures?

Sidewalk and stair paintings, 410 West Avenue

5. What is the name of the cartoon character on the sidewalk? Can you name any of his friends?
6. Every tile has a match, and every stair has a pattern. Draw your own tile pattern below.

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“HopeFULL Hearts” mosaics at This Little Gallery, 617 West Avenue

7. Look inside the hearts. Can you find ...a person? ...a flag? ...a boat? ...the word LOVE?
8. What would you include in a mosaic dedicated to someone you care about?

“Solidarity” mural, 435 East Johnson Street

9. What are three words that you can find in the mural? Why are they meaningful to you, your family, and the community?

Interview with the Artist:

Nicki Kohler

Wings mural at Painting with a Twist, 209 Leedom Street



What inspired you to create this mural?

Jenkintown Youth Activities (JYA) contacted Painting with a Twist because they were interested in commissioning a wings mural. Painting with a Twist entrusted me with the project! To get started, I took a picture of myself standing in front of the wall with my arms out, to see how big it should be. I also took a picture of my son with his arms out! We wanted to make sure it was the right size for kids and adults. Then, I drew two examples of wings on my iPad, and added the image of the wings on the wall. JYA chose the wings they liked the best. It takes a lot of time to plan a big mural!

When did you start and finish the mural? How much time did you spend on it?

I worked on the wings project in July 2019. It took about a week, but I had a partner, Evie Piescek. I spent about eight hours painting, but also about eight hours planning.

What materials did you use?

I used an acrylic ink, acrylic paint and a UV sealer. Ink can fade, so the sealer helps keep that from happening.

How much paint did you use?

The ink that I used was a pigmented acrylic ink, like for a marker refill. It spreads really easily. I only used about two cups of ink total!

Did you need a ladder or other special tools? How did you get the art up so high?

Yes, we needed a ladder. Two people worked on the mural. One person was up on the ladder, and the other person handed stuff up. I made a huge stencil of one half of the wing, so we could flip it to create the other side. I used a pounce wheel on the paper, which makes holes. Then, you whack it with chalk to make kind of an advanced dot-to-dot picture to follow!

How did you learn to make this type of art?

I actually went to college for photography! I have taught myself as I've done more projects. I got a job here at Painting with a Twist in 2012, which allowed me to paint more. I started to get really interested in lettering and signage. For me art is really a combination of thought, planning, looking, and translating an idea into a finished project.

What is your opinion about art in Jenkintown?

I would love to see more! The wings mural has had a great response. It would be nice to see more art and murals in Jenkintown.

(Interviewed by Vivienne Wicks)

Interview with the Artist:

Rebecca Politis

Politis Mosaics, 315 Cedar Street & "Flowers on Division Street," 415 Division Street



Why did you use that material (glass)?

It's heat resistant and water resistant. It holds up better outside. Other materials, like ceramic, don't stand up over time.

What inspired you to do the mosaic?

My husband inspired me. He wanted me to make an address sign for our house.

How did you cut the glass?

I have a little tool, it's kind of like scissors, but they have a sharp wheel on them. They kind of bite the glass in half.

How many days did it take to do that one (mosaic to the right of her house)?

It took 20 hours.

Do you only do mosaics or do you do other art?

I used to do other art, like painting. Sometimes, I draw with crayons. I love crayons.

Where did you get the supplies from?

My construction stuff I get from Home Depot, and the specialized stuff like the nippers and tile I get off a website, it's called Mosaic Trader USA.

What is your favorite part of doing the mosaic?

Grouting it. It's really satisfying.

What's your favorite color to use?

I really like blue.

How old were you when you started doing the mosaics?

I'm 31 now, so I was 29.

(Interviewed by Claire Hudson and Josephine Pizer)



Interview with the Artist:
Mary Jane Reilly
Sidewalk and stair paintings at 410 West Avenue



What inspired you to paint your sidewalk and the stairs?

The stairs were first. When I had them re-done, I picked a tan color paint, but it came out gold. I hated them! I decided I'd have to paint the steps. I wanted to do some artwork, like a waterfall. Then, I looked into tiles. I ended up painting tiles using a stencil.

The sidewalks were during what I call "My Year of Cement." I paid about \$250 for the concrete sidewalk square. It was bright white, and looked terrible! I thought about looking at a Google Earth photo and seeing a bright white sidewalk, and I decided that this was going to be my canvas. I started by painting some green circles on the sidewalk, and sometimes kids would come sit on the square and play games. Then, I painted a Koi pond, but salt destroyed it, and the pond started to look like a baked potato!

I decided to paint Snoopy because I felt the sentiment of "Wake me up when 2020 is over." It took me a few days. I added the sunshine around Snoopy afterwards because he looked lonely! I thought that in 2021 I would have been painting a dancing Snoopy, but we're not

ready for that yet! I hope my art will inspire other people. I love that people will stop, look, and comment on the art.

When did you start and finish the art? How much time did you spend on it?

I started about five years ago. First, I painted the stairs. That took about 2 years. Later, I did the art on the sidewalk. I painted Snoopy last year. When I have an idea, I think about it for a long time. Then, I wait for a sunny day and just start!

What materials did you use?

To make the tiles on my stairs, I used a stencil. I also used a stencil to paint the rug on the sidewalk.

To make the Snoopy picture, I found a picture of a sleeping Snoopy online and I copied it. Then, I blew it up and printed it on two big pieces of paper, and traced it. I used a Sharpie to do the black outline, and paint on the inside.

The heart was a failed art experiment! But, everyone liked the weird colors. At the beginning of Covid, I drew a freehand heart. A few months later, someone painted a smiley face on it. At first I was a little annoyed, but then I thought, "Wait, this is perfect!" That made it like a group participation piece of art.

Did you need any special tools?

No! For Snoopy, I just used a Sharpie and craft paint. It was under a dollar! I used a spray on top to keep it there. I used a stencil, paint and a sealing spray for the tiles, too.

How did you learn to make this type of art?

I just did it! You don't need a lot of talent to use a stencil. It's all in the planning! My real talent is in creating in my brain.

Have you made other art?

I'm not really an artist! I only paint on my sidewalk. I like that I can make mistakes and then cover it up.

What is your opinion about art in Jenkintown?

We need more! It should be everywhere. Every town has a niche - Fairmount has trees, for example. I think we should fall into the art niche. It would be so nice to walk around and on every block see something fun.

(Interviewed by Vivienne Wicks and Elle Zeccardi)

Interview with the Artists: **Trish and John Miller** **“HopeFULL Hearts” at This Little Gallery, 617 West Avenue**



What inspired you to create these mosaics?

One of my friends who was an artist was diagnosed with breast cancer. I've always felt that art is healing, so I asked her if working on an art project would help her through the process. At first we thought, “Maybe we can do a mosaic right here on the wall!” It was actually her idea to involve more people.

The mosaics were a fundraiser for the Breathing Room Foundation in Jenkintown. The cost of each mosaic was a \$75 donation, and all of the money went to their organization. We raised about \$5,000. Many of the mosaics were made to honor someone, or were created in memory of someone. The Breathing Room's mission is phenomenal. They support families in so many practical and useful ways! My mom and I have been recipients of their help, and it made me want to do more.

When did you start and finish the mosaics? How much time did you spend on it?

We began this project about 15 years ago. There were about three or four workshops where people made the mosaics. They glued on the pieces using a type of glue and cement. Then, my husband and I added the grout around the whole thing. That took about a year to finish. It was very messy and labor intensive. After that, it took about seven years to find someone to attach the mosaics to the brick

outside of the store! Our friend and Jenkintown resident, Bob Guerin, glued and screwed each mosaic to the brick. We received a donation from the Jenkintown Community Alliance to cover the cost of the installation. It was such a nice surprise!

How old were the artists?

Anyone could come to the workshop, so there were people of all ages involved, from five years old to about 75 years old! Some of the mosaics were made by groups of four or five people together, and some people worked alone.

Did people need special tools? How did people plan their art?

We knew it would be too hard if we just asked people to make a heart on their board. So, we got a piece of wood and cut a heart out of the middle. People used the heart or the cut-out of the heart to draw and stencil on their board so that all of the hearts for the project were the same size. Then, people laid out their design, and used the glue and cement to attach their materials to the board.

This Little Gallery supplied all of the materials. Whenever a piece of pottery or glass had broken in the store, I saved the pieces - they were all so beautiful, and I didn't want to throw any of it away! So, we provided those pieces to people for their mosaics, along with beads, letters and some other materials. If we needed to break up pieces of glass, we would put it in a towel and hit it with a hammer! People in the community also donated other broken materials - for example, a lot of the white pieces around the hearts are broken tiles and bathroom vanities!

Many of the people creating the mosaics brought in things like pearls or jewelry from the person they dedicated the mosaic to, or made a picture that represented that person. Each mosaic is a personal story.

(Interviewed by Vivienne Wicks and Elle Zeccardi)

Interview with the Artist:
Brian Bowens, a.k.a. bbsketch
“Solidarity” mural at 435 East Johnson Street



Hi, my name is Elsie and I interviewed the artist bbsketch.

When did you start and finish the art?

We started in October 2020 and then ended in November 2020, right before Thanksgiving. So we spent about a month in total.

How much time did you spend on it?

The first day, we got out here and did a sketch and we didn't leave until 1 a.m. Then we got back to work early in the morning. As time went on it started to snow and rain, so it messed with our schedule. But that first day was very exciting, we were out there pretty late.

What materials did you use?

The paint we used was a very expensive mural paint. It is heavy duty with bright colors. It is good for the weather and it lasts a long time. It might outlast me.

How much paint did you need?

A whole lot!

How did you choose your colors?

For the colors, I looked at different pieces of artwork for inspiration. For the vibrancy and how the different shades of purple and blue and yellow look. So I looked at different artwork for inspiration and then whatever looked good that's what we decided to go with.

Did you need a ladder or other special tools? How did you get the art up so high?

Definitely! We had a scissor lift, so it's like a ladder on wheels that you can control and drive around with. It allowed me to go up and down. The first night was the only time I used the ladder (why was kind of dangerous). So after that I didn't use the ladder.

Did you use a stencil?

No, because that was something I drew, so I could draw from memory. The only thing I did was use a projector to put the line work up on the wall, so I could do a quick sketch around it. Then I painted in over top of the sketch.

How did you plan out the art?

I used an iPad, a projector, measurements and an iPhone to figure out how tall and how wide I wanted to get it.

How did you learn to make this type of art?

Practice. I've been drawing since I was little and I just kept drawing and drawing. And now, I can draw anything I want to draw.

What inspired you? This piece of artwork was inspired by an artist from Spain and he has a style called the inverse drip. I was inspired by that and made my own piece of artwork, which had multiple sections made into one form.

Interview with the Artist (cont.'d):
Brian Bowens, a.k.a. bbsketch
“Solidarity” mural at 435 East Johnson Street

How did you know what to write?

The idea is based on solidarity, that was something in my heart to put out and write. “Out of many we are one” - that's the explanation of *e pluribus unum*, which is the whole theme of the piece of artwork. Meaning that everybody, from all types of walks and all types of experiences, come together for one common goal, which is to stand up and speak out against what's wrong — and to stand up for what is right. So that's where the words equality and justice come from. Out of many we are one. From there we wrote all over and went with the flow.

Have you made other art?

Yes, I have a lot of different kinds of art. I do custom artwork, like if you wanted a picture drawn of yourself or a painting, if you and your family wanted a painting or you want a picture of your dog... anything. I've done lots of work.

How did you pay for the materials to make this art?

I was paid to create this piece of artwork and from that payment we paid for the materials, the scissor lift, and everything that's used for that painting like the protective coating that goes on there to protect it from being painted over top of it.

Thank you for a great interview!

(Interviewed by Elsie Freeman)

About the Authors

The authors of The Jenkintown Art Walk are a group of nine second grade girls in Girl Scout Brownie Troop 73632. They put this booklet together as part of their Take Action Award project in the spring of 2021. They hope you enjoy learning about public art in Jenkintown!



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