

Title: SAGE Studio website content

Author: Katie Stahl, Executive Director, SAGE Studio

Subject: SAGE Studio is committed to making our content accessible to visitors locally and from around the world. Included in this document is the information from our website and is up-to-date as of November 2022.

Keywords: Progressive art studio, adults with IDD, artists with disabilities, art in Austin Texas

Language: English

For assistance in accessing this document, please contact us via email:

info@sagestudioatx.com

Table of Contents

- [About SAGE Studio](#)
 - [Mission and Core Values](#)
 - [Who We Are](#)
 - [Board of Directors](#)
- [Studio Program](#)
- [Exhibition Program](#)
- [Studio Artists](#)
- [Exhibiting Artists](#)
- [Collaborations](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Our Supporters](#)
- [Contact SAGE Studio](#)

ABOUT

SAGE Studio is a non-profit studio and gallery space in east Austin that provides artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities the materials, space, and support to produce, exhibit, and sell their artwork. SAGE (Supporting Artistic Growth and Entrepreneurship) Studio serves artists with disabilities through two main programs: our Studio Program and our Exhibition Program.

MISSION + CORE VALUES

It is SAGE Studio's mission to nurture and amplify the voices of artists with disabilities, so that they may meaningfully engage with the social, economic, and creative life of the community.

IDENTITY: We recognize our participants as working artists, building their artistic practice, voice, and careers.

INDEPENDENCE: We respect our artists' autonomy in their creative work and studio practice.

COMMUNITY: We cultivate an inclusive community where our artists connect meaningfully with each other, other creatives, and the greater art world.

WHO WE ARE

Katie Stahl, Co-founder + Executive Director

Katie Stahl is a practicing artist with over twelve years of experience working with adults with disabilities in an art setting. She earned a BA in psychology from Dartmouth College and an MA in art education from The University of Texas at Austin, where she completed her master's thesis on Creativity Explored, one of the oldest progressive art studios in the country. In her own art practice, Katie paints under the name Houndoggle Art.

Lucy Gross, Co-founder + Director of External Relations

Lucy Gross is a practicing social worker with over a decade of experience working with adults with disabilities. In addition to her work at SAGE, she teaches at The University of Texas in their inclusion program for adults with disabilities. She earned her undergraduate degree at Emerson College and her master's of social work at Texas State University.

Lucy and Katie met as art instructors at The Arc of the Arts, an art-based day habilitation program for adults with disabilities. Together, they founded SAGE Studio in 2017. They have represented SAGE as speakers at SXSW EDU in 2019 and co-curated exhibitions at the Outsider Art Fair in New York City in 2019, 2020, and 2022. They are passionate about integrating artists with disabilities into the contemporary art scene in Austin.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jackson Sutton
- Dianne King
- Sarah Blyth
- Whitney Arostegui
- Celina Zisman
- Allison Norlian
- Will Bryant
- Elizabeth Roehm
- Betty Chen
- Lucy Gross

HISTORY

SAGE Studio was founded in 2016. In the beginning, SAGE operated in small spaces: first at co-founder Lucy Gross' kitchen table, then in a small, refurbished shipping container in the Govalle neighborhood of Austin, and then in a refurbished trailer within Canopy, a community of 45 artist studios and 6 art galleries in east Austin. In the fall of 2021, we had the exciting opportunity to move to a 2000-square-foot space in the main building of Canopy, surrounded by some of Austin's best regarded art galleries. Making the move to this much larger space meant that we could work with more artists simultaneously following a set studio schedule and maintain a separate gallery space for the first time,

enabling us to have more art shows, represent more artists, and bring new eyes to our artists' work—to truly be able to give our artists the workspace and exhibition space their practices deserve. Also in 2021, SAGE officially transitioned to a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

In the 5+ years since we opened our doors, we have represented the work of more than 60 artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mounted 23 exhibitions, and represented artists at the Outsider Art Fair in New York City three times. We have facilitated collaborations between our artists and nationally recognized partners, including Vans shoes, Whataburger, and the Biden presidential campaign. We have been featured in Austin Monthly, Arts + Culture Texas, and ForbesWomen, been recognized as Austin's "Best Outsider Art Advocate" by the Austin Chronicle, and twice been voted one of the best galleries in Austin by Chronicle readers.

STUDIO PROGRAM

Artists in our Studio Program create work in our studio space at east Austin's Canopy arts community with the guidance of practicing artist facilitators. Each artist has their own work station, which is outfitted with their specific supplies. The goal for participating artists is to explore new mediums, strengthen their artistic voice, and build a cohesive portfolio of work for exhibition. Participants have opportunities to learn about all aspects of being a working artist, from creation to pricing to exhibition to sale.

Surrounded by a wealth of creatives, artists in the Studio Program also have the opportunity to visit other studios and galleries within the complex through Canopy Crawl, a twice monthly excursion into the arts community to check out exhibitions, meet other makers, and find new inspiration.

Our studio is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to 1 pm and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 12 pm to 4 pm. If you are interested in becoming a studio artist at SAGE Studio, please fill out our artist application. Studio artists must be 18+, have an intellectual or developmental disability, live in the Austin area, and have a serious interest in art-making. Prospective artists can set up a tour by emailing us at info@sagestudioatx.com.

EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Through our Exhibition Program, we put on bimonthly art exhibitions in our east Austin gallery to showcase the work of our studio artists, alongside the work of exhibiting artists who create their work outside our studio. Though we started as a space for exclusively Texas-based artists, we now represent artists from across the country in our exhibitions. We also operate an online store with a wide selection of original artwork, fine art prints, and merchandise. The goal of the Exhibition Program is to provide opportunities for our artists to earn a wage and to seriously pursue a career in the arts, and to carve out a place in the contemporary art conversation and wider artistic marketplace for these talented voices. As such, our artists are paid a 50% commission, equal to the commission rate of traditional art galleries, on all original artwork sold in the gallery and online store.

We also work with our artists to find exhibition opportunities outside of SAGE. Most notably, SAGE artists have been represented at the Outsider Art Fair in New York City in 2019, 2020, and 2022.

If you are interested in becoming an exhibiting artist at SAGE Studio, please fill out our artist application. Exhibiting artists must be 18+, have an intellectual or developmental disability, live in the United States, and have a developed artistic practice.

STUDIO ARTISTS

Studio Artists

Montrel Beverly

Montrel Beverly (b. 2003) is an Austin-based artist whose practice focuses on sculptures made out of pipe cleaners. These art objects are often kinetic with moving and detachable parts that add to joy and wonderment. Working under the moniker of Mr. Clowney, Beverly has been molding pipe cleaners since middle school when his interests shifted from video games to art making. His past sculptures include portraits, animals, and automobiles, and food though his subject matter is ever expanding.

Chris Cody

Chris Cody (b. 1977) combines his extensive knowledge of pop culture and his talent for drawing to bring his work to life. Often infused with references to film and music, Chris uses markers, colored pencils, and oil pastels to pay homage to icons of the eras that shaped him, with a focus on the '80s and '90s. Chris also enjoys drinking beer and visiting local bars and breweries; this has made him a natural fit for several beer based collaborations. Chris has been making work and participating in the Austin art scene for years and now practices out of SAGE once a week.

Yesenia Duran

Yesenia Duran (b. 1999) is an Austin-based artist whose practice focuses on members of the animal kingdom. Pulling inspiration from nature guides, Yesenia creates encyclopedic collections of drawings chronicling a wide variety of species. She uses both drawing and text to create detailed and informative work. When she's not in the studio, Yesenia enjoys spending time outside and has recently begun raising and releasing Monarch butterflies.

Sam Eiler

Sam Eiler's family realized he was an artist at three years old, when his mother found him carving SpongeBob SquarePants into their dining room table. Sam continues to be inspired by illustrated characters and works in a wide variety of two and three-dimensional mediums, including drawing, ceramics, and puppet making. Sam's work with puppets has evolved from a simple sock turned Kermit to fully realized felt and wire personalities. Sam has been a SAGE studio artist since 2018.

Evan Herrera

Evan Herrera (b. 2000) uses pens and markers to create kaleidoscopic abstract drawings. Evan draws inspiration by the shapes and colors in the world around him. When not creating work, Evan enjoys playing video games and listening to Metalcore.

Rick Fleming

Rick Fleming (b. 1969) lives and works in Austin, Texas. An accomplished portrait artist, drummer, and former bodybuilder, Rick is equally adept in drawing and painting. With his signature humor and standout line work, he uses images and text to capture the essence of his subjects. Rick draws inspiration from pop culture, especially classic rock, movies from the eighties and nineties, and WWE wrestling.

Rick has been a studio artist at SAGE Studio since its inception in January 2017. His work is in private collections across the country and has been represented at New York City's Outsider Art Fair, the premiere art fair in the world for self-taught artists. In 2020, Rick was personally commissioned by Joe Biden to draw a portrait of the President to be reproduced as an official Biden tote bag.

Gav Sears

Gav Sears (b. 1996) is a pen artist from San Marcos, Texas. He has the unique ability to distill complex, often architectural subjects down to their essence. In his drawings, Gav uses clean black lines, a signature he first developed at the age of eight when an art therapist began working with him to develop his communication skills. When he was seventeen, Gav drew his first building, the San Marcos Courthouse, and "Gav Art" was born. Gav has been an exhibiting artist since 2019 and a studio artist since 2020.

Jackson Sutton

Jackson Sutton (b. 2001) lives and works in Austin, Texas. Though Jackson is a relatively young artist, his influences are vast and worldly and his work reflects that of a seasoned maker. With an avid interest in foreign countries and languages, Jackson creates distinctive characters that traverse cultural landscapes. Wherever they are, Jackson's figures are full of joy and movement. Stylistically, Jackson draws inspiration from both cartoonists and mid-century illustrators, which is reflected in his bold colors and use of graphic pattern. Jackson has been a SAGE studio artist since 2019. He also serves on the board of directors of SAGE Studio.

Exhibiting Artists

Anna Burke

Weaving has been an integral part of Anna Burke's life since 2016. Her work is inspired by the weaving philosophy of SAORI and is thus an intuitive process. Anna weaves form, color, and texture through a variety of fiber materials such as yarn, thread, ribbon, cloth strips, and wool. What emerges is the outgrowth of her own creative process and individual

expression. Anna weaves at a home studio, where her Siamese cat Stellanuna is always on hand to check out the yarn stash. Anna has been an exhibiting artist at SAGE since 2018.

Anthony Coleman

Anthony Coleman (b. 1969) was born and raised in Philadelphia. He is a self-taught artist and began drawing his unique portraits at a young age. Fueled by his desire to create, Coleman drew on whatever scrap of paper he could find, cutting out each finished figure and carrying it in his wallet wherever he went. Coleman's distinct style combines the color and mood of cartoons from the '70s and '80s, with his keen eye for portraiture. An extremely prolific artist, Coleman has drawn hundreds of portraits, each expertly capturing the distinctive characteristics of his subjects through his own personal style.

Coleman has recently exhibited his art in group shows at BREACH, Miami, La LUZ de JESUS GALLERY, L.A., SPACE 1026, Philadelphia, as well as three group shows at his first-ever solo show, *Call Me Tony*, at SAGE Studio. In 2022, SAGE represented Coleman in his debut at the Outsider Art Fair in New York City.

Emily Dodson

Emily Dodson (b. 1980) learned to paint alongside her artist mother. She has a distinct point of view as an artist, creating work that is vibrant, imaginative, joyful, and full of bold colors. Emily builds fantastical worlds through her art, populating her work with oversized flowers, a variety of whimsical creatures—skydiving pigs, flying frogs—and the very occasional human figure. Although she is especially adept at working with acrylics and pastels, she is always open to experimenting with new mediums. Emily has been an Exhibiting artist at SAGE since 2020.

Charlie French

Charlie French (b. 1991) is an abstract artist who embraces a blank canvas as an adventure in imaginative freedom. He has studied painting in London, Dallas, and Santa Fe, and his work hangs in private and corporate collections around the world, including the permanent collection at Globe Life Field for the Texas Rangers. His paintings are intuitive, expressive, and inspired by a wide variety of subjects, including his favorite foods, storms, and water. Charlie's professional purpose is to share with others the happiness he discovers daily in his painting process. Charlie has been an exhibiting artist at SAGE since 2018. In 2021, his painting, "Joyful Spring," was featured in a collaboration between SAGE Studio and Vans.

King Godwin

King Nobuyoshi Godwin (b. 1991) lives and works in Raleigh, North Carolina. Godwin began painting at the age of 22. His paintings often depict elements of the natural world—underwater creatures, birds, trees—juxtaposed with the synthetic vibrance of neon colors. His works range in size from small, single-subject paintings to large paintings that capture entire narratives. Regardless of their physical size, Godwin's work is incredibly detailed. Godwin has autism and a form of synesthesia, a condition in which the perception of one sensory experience triggers another. For Godwin, numerical synesthesia means that numbers are connected to feelings and experiential stories.

Godwin creates his work in three stages, first laying down a bright base coat, and then painting the subject, usually an animal or plant. When he paints, Godwin uses a complex system of colors and numbers to express how he is feeling. Finally, Godwin uses Japanese paint markers to fill his canvas until every inch is covered with numbers and he has achieved a kaleidoscopic effect that is both beautiful and highly meaningful. Godwin then names each work, producing wonderfully specific titles like, "The tree is having a wonderful day because friends are together '99'" and "The elephant is having an okay day because it feels a bit stiff '55.'"

Godwin has been named one of one of Raleigh Magazine's "New Influentials" and his work has been exhibited at Charlotte Russell Contemporary and Gregg Museum of Art & Design in Raleigh and 5 Points Gallery in Durham. He had a solo exhibition, *The Artist Is Having a Good Day*, at SAGE in 2021 and in 2022 SAGE represented his work at the Outsider Art Fair in New York City.

Bayahat Ham

Bayahat Ham (b. 1993) is a self-taught artist living and working in Philadelphia. He uses black ink on paper to create simple renderings of pop culture figures, animals, and fashion. He has shown work at Savery Gallery, Off The Wall Gallery, and Eyes Gallery, along with many other establishments in Philadelphia, as well as in two group exhibitions at SAGE.

Zachary Robey

Zachary Robey (b. 1995) lives and works in Flower Mound, Texas. Diagnosed with autism at three and a half and nonverbal until the age of four, drawing was Zachary's way of communicating with the world around him. A versatile artist who works in a variety of mediums, including colored pencil, marker, and acrylics, Zachary's work is bold and bright. An avid student of art history, Zachary's favorite artists are Vincent Van Gogh and Claude

Monet. He is also a medal-winning athlete with the Spirit Flower Mound Special Olympic Team in basketball, soccer, and bowling. Zachary views his artwork as a way to educate the public on autism awareness and acceptance. He has been an exhibiting artist at SAGE since 2020.

David Sefcik

As a photographer, David Sefcik focuses on a variety of subjects, from his personal interests to American Sign Language to portraits. As a DeafBlind artist, all of his work reflects his truly unique interaction with the world. He often depicts these experiences through zines, full of images and text, and draws inspiration from music, lights, and social connection. Hailing from the Dallas area, he currently attends school and works in Austin. He has been an exhibiting artist at SAGE since 2019.

David Sulak

David Sulak (b. 1967) is a multi-disciplinary artist who lives and works in Louise, Texas. David's work is a shrine to everyday items that have made an impression on him: an Oldsmobile seen around his Texas town, his grandmother's couch, the kitchen of the house he and his mother share. Some of his drawings portray a single object, while other pieces contain a multitude of these nostalgic objects. His sculptural representations are composed of paper and tape and contain astonishing detail, reserved only for things of great love. David works from memory and the occasional magazine image; whether he is making a sculptural rendering of the state school he attended or drawing a dashboard of a car, his attention to minutiae demonstrates his appreciation for the subject and the memory it conjures. David has been a gallery artist at SAGE since 2018; SAGE represented David's work at New York City's Outsider Art Fair, the premiere art fair in the world for self-taught artists, in 2019 and 2020.

Ethan Walton

Originally from Hewitt, Texas, Ethan Walton (b. 2002) lives and attends school in Austin. As a DeafBlind artist with CHARGE Syndrome, observing the world is a specialty of Ethan's. Ethan uses his unique level of hearing and visual functioning to make observations and interpret them through his art. His choices and study of an object or of an interaction are careful and intentional, and he demonstrates his thoughtfulness through every step of his artistic process. His art—which is often darkly humorous in nature—reflects his personality. Ethan's preferred mediums are graphite, markers, acrylic and tempera paint, and Wite Out,

and he is especially drawn to black and white paint, though his work demonstrates a sophisticated sense of color. Ethan has been an exhibiting artist at SAGE since 2021.

Woodley White

Woodley White (b. 1983) lives and works in Philadelphia, PA. He creates artwork that shows a keen eye for detail and a passion for his subject matter. It is not uncommon for White to draw the same subject hundreds of times across all media and on various surfaces. Each aspect of White's work is deeply considered, from the placement on the page to the intense line quality. The repetitive nature of his work conveys White's passion for his subject matter and the focus of his observation. White's favorite subjects are bottles, shirts, whistles, transit, patterns, and architecture. He has shown his work throughout Philadelphia, including exhibitions at AIRspace, InLiquid exhibition space, High5, and Gallery Aferro in Newark, NJ. Bottle, Shirt, Whistle, his first solo exhibition in Texas, opened at SAGE in March 2022.

Jennifer Williams

Jennifer Williams (b. 1982) is a self-taught artist born and raised in Philadelphia. Williams' love for animals, landscapes, supermodels, celebrities, music, and people populate her work. A large component of Williams' art explores fantasy glam and punk rock bands with a special interest in a group of Williams' own creation called The Raven Call. In addition to her artwork, Williams creates hand-drawn t-shirts based on celebrities and musicians that she loves and enjoys sharing these t-shirts with others. Williams is a member of The Soapbox Community Print Shop & Zine Library in West Philadelphia.

COLLABORATIONS

We are always looking for opportunities to connect our artists with the community. Partnering with brands, businesses, and other creatives is a way for artists to create relationships and build their professional portfolio. If you are interested in collaborating with SAGE, you can reach out to us by email at info@sagestudioatx.com.

Artist Collaborations

Artist collaborations are a way for community artists to bring their unique practice into our studio or to team up with a SAGE artist on a joint venture. If you are an artist interested in collaborating or volunteering with SAGE, you can reach out to us by email at info@sagestudioatx.com.

Brand Collaborations

Brand collaborations allow businesses to support our artists and the mission of SAGE Studio. We have been lucky enough to collaborate with some incredible brands, businesses, and campaigns, most notably the Joe Biden campaign and Vans shoes. If you are a brand or business interested in collaborating with SAGE, you can reach out to us by email at info@sagestudioatx.com.

Licensing and Art Services

We are always looking for ways to bring the work of our artists to new audiences. We have partnered with restaurants, interior designers, clinics, and professional office spaces to provide artwork that is sure to be a conversation starter. If you're interested in commissioning, purchasing, or licensing artwork, you can reach out to us by email at info@sagestudioatx.com. We can't wait to hear what you have in mind!

SHOP

Our Shop features original artwork from our artists; merchandise including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and stickers; fine art prints; and custom art. If you are interested in learning more about our current inventory or the process for commissioning a piece from one of our artists, please email us at info@sagestudioatx.com.

DONATE

Thank you for considering a donation to SAGE Studio! SAGE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN: 85-3041860) and donations to SAGE are tax-deductible. Your donation will help us support and amplify the voices of talented artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities from Texas and beyond.

Ways to donate:

- To make a donation by mail, please send your check made out to SAGE Studio & Gallery to 916 Springdale Road Building 2 #103, Austin, TX 78702.
- A sustaining membership is a great way to support SAGE year-round (and comes with some great perks!). If you are interested in becoming a sustaining member, please contact our Director of External Relations, Lucy Gross, at lucy@sagestudioatx.com.
- Your employer may offer matching gift programs. SAGE has a profile on Benevity, YourCause, and Bright Funds.
- When shopping online you can select SAGE Studio as your designated charity on AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us.
- We also accept in-kind donations! Please email lucy@sagestudioatx.com to learn about our current needs.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Support from businesses, foundations, and grantors enables us to further our mission and expand our reach. We are so grateful to those who have helped us get where we are. If you're interested in learning more about corporate sponsorship or philanthropic giving, email us at info@sagestudioatx.com.

Our supporters include:

- Arts and Culture Texas
- Austin Community Foundation
- City of Austin Economic Development, Cultural Arts Division
- The Enterline Foundation
- Future Front TX
- Garrison Family Foundation
- Impact Awards
- Harry E. and Eda L. Montandon Charitable Trust
- Wayne & JoAnne Moore Charitable Foundation
- The Luluma Foundation
- Tuktawa Foundation

CONTACT US

SAGE Studio is located in Canopy, a community of artists, gallerists, and other creatives located on almost four acres in east Austin. We are open for visitors Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-1 and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 12-4.

SAGE Studio is on the ground floor of Building 2. Free parking with accessible parking spaces is available in a parking lot located off of Springdale Road. The pathway to SAGE from this parking lot is wheelchair accessible via a ramp adjacent to the accessible parking spaces. Accessible restrooms are located on the ground floor of Building 2 and can be accessed via SAGE. Service animals and emotional support animals are welcome inside the gallery. A sensory kit is available on-site that includes noise canceling headphones, fidgets, and sunglasses. Tuesdays are our designated quiet day for gallery visits. If you would like to visit on a Tuesday, please email us at info@sagestudioatx.com.

You can find us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter under the username sagestudioatx. All of our posts on social media include image descriptions.