

 **OUR ART  
OUR REGION  
OUR TIME**

***Dogwood Keeper***

11in X 14in

No. 1/20

Limited edition print of mixed media, gouache and ink



## Melissa Johnston

@melmakesmarks

### Bio

Lifelong resident of Northwest Arkansas;

Melissa describes herself as a creative, wife, dog mom, nature lover, avid thrifter, and coffee enthusiast. These themes are often reoccurring influences in her art as she explores illustration through traditional and digital mediums.

Melissa graduated from John Brown University with a degree in Illustration. She has always been inspired by the fairy tales, whimsical illustrations, and the wooded countryside of her childhood. Her art seeks to find magic in the ordinary, typically emphasizing a mixture of gouache paint and ink line work. Her current focus is to replicate traditional mediums as authentically as she can into a digital format, blurring the line between the two.

### Artist Statement

As a native Arkansas daughter, I enjoy getting lost in nature and using my own photos and experiences as the template for my paintings. I see beauty and vibrancy in all seasons of nature and magic in the seemingly ordinary. I find focusing on these themes inspires creativity and brings me a sense of nostalgia and curiosity. My hope is that those who view my artwork will feel a similar connection.