

# OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

## *Box Art Fish*

4" x 3" x 6"

Used Amazon Shipping Box

\$95



## Melissa Milton

### Bio

Melissa Milton is a native of Arkansas, U.S. She grew up in a family of seven in Fayetteville, which at that time was a quaint little Southern town populated by 10,000 small town residents plus 5,000 college students attending the local university. The mix of people combined to create the atmosphere of a small Southern town with traditional values laced with liberal thinking. A child in the 60's and a teenager in the 70's, she has been influenced by the art and design of those eras. She enjoyed drawing and painting all through her public school years. However, Melissa allowed herself to be persuaded by well meaning adults to pursue law as a career instead of art. Law was admittedly an interesting career and served for decades as a way to make a good living for the family she raised. Now a grandmother and retired attorney, Melissa began creating art late in life. This came about when, at age 56, she became disabled by a longstanding inherited neurological disorder (Dysautonomia) and a collagen disorder frequently found in the same people, EDS (Ehlers Danlos Syndrome). She actively had the disease symptoms for 16 years before they finally progressed to the point of keeping her homebound and suddenly unemployed. Rather abruptly, Melissa became homebound, unable to stand much, sit up much, or drive a car. She passed out daily from random blood pressure drops.

After the first year at home she became bored out of her mind from being stuck lying down in bed most of the time. She decided to start creating art to pass the time. Melissa now creates art simply because she enjoys doing so. She also enjoys listening to other people's reactions to and interpretations of what she creates.

### Artist Statement

Melissa Milton was born in the Southern United States during the turbulent 1960's and came of age in the groovy 1970's. The colorful clothing, interior décor, and art of those decades influences her artistic expression.

The family of colors and designs associated with those eras frequently find their way into her artwork, especially in tertiary colors (colors derived from a combination of three or more colors). She tends to use curved, relaxed, flowing shapes which – when combined with the unusual color choices – can potentially express an object in a new way which perhaps some people may have not seen before.

Melissa begins most of her 2D visual art with a story, idea, or question she would like to visually depict. These may become expressed as a memory, a philosophy, a fairy tale, a forewarning, or some other concept.

In her 3D clay art, Melissa enjoys drawing the viewer into a world of whimsy. Tapping into the five year old child still residing within her, she creates whimsical animals who will hopefully delight and entertain the five year old child living within the art viewer.