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Kentucky Guidebook

# EQUESTRIAN

## GAMES



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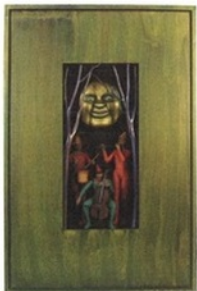


# Artists

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## of the BLUEGRASS

Farms dot the rolling countryside of central Kentucky, where talented and beautiful horses are bred and foaled each year. The area also provides inspiration for those with an artistic aptitude—from abstract painters to equine sculptors. Here are profiles of some of the Bluegrass region's finest artists.



\*\*\* Three Musicians

### Steve Armstrong\*

Steve Armstrong is a Kentucky native who graduated from the University of Kentucky and continues to wow the Lexington area with the quality and creativity of his art. Armstrong is most famous for his "Automata" sculptures, a series of kinetic sculptures made of delicately carved and intricately interlocking moveable parts. These sculptures can be considered folk art and fine art, showcasing Armstrong's exceptional talents in woodworking, mechanical planning and imaginative design. Different types of stained or painted wood make up an individual entity, but the final sculptures appear deceptively uncomplicated, allowing viewers to revel in the spinning, sliding and opening pieces without being bogged down by the mechanics of it all. Art lovers of all ages will delight in Armstrong's sometimes humorous and sometimes thought-provoking sculptures. He is represented by Helke Pickett Gallery in Lexington and Versailles.



\*\*\* The Fruit of Our Labors



\*\*\* Full Summer

### Robert James Foose

A celebrated Kentucky artist, Robert James Foose also is an associate professor in the Department of Art at the University of Kentucky and has had more than 50 solo exhibitions in the past 25 years. His work can be found in numerous collections throughout the country, including the J.B. Speed Art Museum in Louisville. Known for his oil landscapes of Kentucky and elaborate watercolor still lifes, Foose bases his paintings on what he sees but still considers himself an abstract painter because the idea of the painting is always an abstract. Viewers are drawn to the unique perspectives, full canvases and intense colors in Foose's paintings, which are ordinary images transformed into extraordinarily beautiful works of art. It may take your eyes a minute or so to realize what they are staring at, but then they will feast upon the visual abundance of the painting. Foose is one of the many talented local artists represented by Lexington's Ann Tower Gallery.



\*\*\* Iris Pond VI



\*\*\* Calla Lilies

### Arturo Alonzo Sandoval\*

Expertly bridging the gap between craft and fine art, Arturo Alonzo Sandoval is a fiber artist of international renown. An alumni-endowed professor at the University of Kentucky, Sandoval has been an artist and educator for more than 35 years and has produced a prolific body of work, pieces of which reside in numerous galleries and private collections throughout the world, including a prestigious spot in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Sandoval's art combines excellent craftsmanship and an emphasis on and exploration of materials. He revitalizes traditional folk art techniques such as weaving and quilting by using recycled industrial materials. The finished colors, patterns and textures are intriguing and reveal deeper themes in the works. A 2003 Kentucky Educational Television production, "Arturo Alonzo Sandoval: The Fabric of Art," offers viewers an intimate look at the process and ideas of the artist and shows him working in his studio and installing a work at UK's Singletary Center for the Arts. This profile continues to be aired regularly on KET.



\*\*\* Don't Ask ... Don't Tell

Steve Armstrong's "Three Musicians," acrylic, carved and constructed wood with hand-carved wooden mechanisms; "The Fruit of Our Labors," acrylic, carved and constructed wood with hand-carved wooden gears. Represented by Heike Pickett Gallery & Sculpture Garden, [www.heikepickettgallery.com](http://www.heikepickettgallery.com).

Robert James Foose's "Full Summer," oil on canvas; "Iris Pond VI," oil on canvas; and "Calla Lilies," oil and acrylic on canvas. Represented by Ann Tower Gallery, [www.anntowergallery.com](http://www.anntowergallery.com).

Arturo Alonzo Sandoval's "Don't Ask ... Don't Tell," digital image created for the Transylvania University exhibition at Morlan Gallery, The Filtrious Horse Artists Respond to the Clara Peck Collection. Courtesy of the artist.

## Artists of the Bluegrass

### Deborah Westerfield

In the magical land of whimsical art, Deborah Westerfield reigns supreme. According to Westerfield, "The pleasures of enjoying art are exceeded only by the pleasures of creating it," and this excitement is visible in all of her works. From gorgeous stylized women to wildly vibrant flowers and even some wholly abstract pieces, Westerfield's work can light up any face with a smile and add a touch of fun to any room. Perhaps it is the lighthearted and whimsical nature of the pieces that gives viewers permission to just enjoy the simple beauty of the works and has made Westerfield a true Lexington favorite. Her work can be experienced at her own studio, DBW Studio, or at New Editions Gallery.



\*\*\* Paros Vista X

## Equine Artists

### D. Lee

D. Lee, was born in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and lived in the West for years before moving to Lexington. Because Lee was always involved with horses through training and competing, it was natural for her to create equine art when she began painting at age 30. "I love to paint what I find beautiful," Lee said, "and therefore animals are an easy choice for me. They are all so unique and have a beauty and soul all their own that is my goal to capture." And Lee brings that soul to the canvas in all her paintings. Rather than creating a generic picture of a horse (or any other animal), Lee paints a specific horse, so that each of her paintings is actually a portrait or instant in time recorded through her brushstrokes.

### Helene Steene\*

A citizen of the world, Helene Steene lived in England, Germany, Spain, Greece and Sweden before settling in Lexington. Her work has been shown in more than 200 local, national and international exhibitions and can be found in numerous collections in both the United States and Europe. But while Steene's list of accolades may be impressive, her artwork speaks for itself. Each work is a veritable feast of colors and textures that captivate the viewer's eye while exhibiting an inherent sense of peace. Her current body of work is made up of abstract images created by layer after thin layer of oil paint glazes, marble dust and metal. These images embrace the unexpected and invite the viewer to take a minute to contemplate beauty and harmony. Steene is active in the Lexington art community and has a studio at the Lexington Art League's Loudon House.



\*\*\* You Must Travel



\*\*\* By Mama's Side

Helene Steene's "Paros Vista X." Courtesy of the artist, [www.helenesteene.com](http://www.helenesteene.com).

"You Must Travel" by Deborah Westerfield, mixed media on canvas. Represented by New Editions Gallery, [www.neweditionsgallery.com](http://www.neweditionsgallery.com).

D. Lee's "By Mama's Side," oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist, [www.dianaleeart.com](http://www.dianaleeart.com).