

Meet The Makers

Edition 1: Jan McGuire



Jordan Weddle 5/15/2024

Janet McGuire: Champion of Art and Community

Janet McGuire, a multimedia artist and resident of Knightstown, has spent her life exploring the vast landscape of creative expression. Known for her dynamic range of original artwork, McGuire's journey from crafting glass beads to creating diverse, high-quality pieces reflects her restless spirit and dedication to making art accessible to all.

McGuire's artistic journey began with glass bead making, but her need for variety and challenge led her to experiment with different mediums. "I get bored doing one thing," she admits, "so I expand into others."

This insatiable curiosity has resulted in a portfolio rich in diversity, encompassing everything from intricate beadwork to hand drawn original pieces. All of her artwork may be purchased at her business, "Something Knew" in the Makers Market. Her goal is simple yet profound: "I want to make some unusual, high-quality artwork that the average person can afford, so they don't have to bust their budget to afford original art pieces." This philosophy has earned her a loyal following of art enthusiasts who appreciate both her talent and her commitment to affordability.

McGuire's dedication to art extends beyond her own work

as she is one of the original members of the BKI group. McGuire and the other original BKI members, Linda Lashbrooke and Kevin Richey, were the first champions of the Makers Market. The concept was inspired by a trip to Michigan, where McGuire fell in love with the idea of a market that supports small entrepreneurs. "We need to bring more industry into downtown Knightstown," she asserts. "Small entrepreneurs like myself may not be able to afford a brick-and-mortar establishment, but the Makers Market is the next best thing, allowing us to establish ourselves as vendors without the high barriers of entry required with a brick-and-mortar store."



The Makers Market and a Commitment To Building A Community

For McGuire, the Makers Market is about more than just commerce; it's about community building. On the Makers Market and its potential, McGuire said, "The Makers Market can bring people into Knightstown to see what our community is like by meeting members of this community in our establishments and the brick-and-mortar establishments. With more people, more funding circulates into our community, allowing the town more opportunities to grow economically."

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A Call To Fellow Artists

McGuire's message to other artists is one of encouragement and opportunity. "I want people to know that we, the vendors at the Makers Market, and the businesses on merchants row are working together and have a common goal: to bring industry into downtown Knightstown," she emphasizes. "Although everyone in the Makers Market hopes to turn a profit, this project isn't about the money; this project is about growing our community." For artists seeking an affordable space to sell their work, McGuire extends an open invitation: "If you are an artist, and you are looking for a way to sell your artwork in an affordable space, get in touch with us."

Janet McGuire's story is one of artistic passion intertwined with a deep commitment to her community. Through her work and her advocacy, she continues to enrich Knightstown, proving that art can be both a personal journey and a communal catalyst for change.

If you would like to hear more about her journey Jan encourages you to "stop on by" Something Knew at the Makers Market on Main Street in Knightstown, Indiana.

