

Franki DeSaro

Franki DeSaro (New Jersey, 1993) received a BFA in painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in 2015. DeSaro is an emerging artist, educator, and non-profit founder. She has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions internationally including NY, NJ, GA and FR. DeSaro has created long-term art as healing and art education programs for cancer treatment centers, underprivileged communities and trafficked women and children throughout India, Africa and the US. Motivated by her passion for service, DeSaro founded the non-profit organization Light to Earth Sanctuary in 2018 which has been serving the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of families across NJ for five years. In recognition of her leadership in community and global outreach, DeSaro was awarded the **Young Professional Leadership Award** by ATHENA International in 2017 and the **Emerging Leader Finalist Award** by eWomen Network in 2016.

Franki is an artist in residence alumni of Bell Works, which culminated in her 40 piece solo exhibition *'Rebirth into The Light'*. DeSaro was an exhibiting artist for Art Fair 14C for both 2022 and 2023.. She was commissioned by The School for the Arts to create a 165 ft. eco-printed site specific silk installation *'The Forest Path'*, leading to additional outdoor site specific silk installations *'Selah'* and *'The Spirit and the Bride Say Come'* as a ChaNorthResidency recipient during spring 2023 Open Studios with ChaShaMa, NYC. Recently, DeSaro exhibited in 'ENVIRONMENT' , a group show at MK Apothecary in Collingswood NJ. She will be exhibiting in the Rema Hort Mann Foundation BWYL Benefit show at Storage Gallery, Tribeca, NY in May. Currently, she continues her studio practice in NJ, and will be pursuing a Masters in Art Therapy at NYU in Fall 24'.

Education

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| 2024-26 | MA Art Therapy, New York University: Steinhardt School of Culture, Ed and Dev. |
| 2023-25 | Leadership Transformations Selah Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction |
| 2021 | LEAD.NYC & Trauma Healing Institute: Trauma Healing Training Intensive |
| 2020 | LEAD.NYC: Advanced Leadership Intensive, 1-year program |
| 2019 | Limitless Women Business School Certificate in Entrepreneurship by L. Gisborne |
| 2013 | Metropolitan Museum of Art workshop, guided by Master Printer Deborah Chaney |
| 2013 | Savannah College of Art and Design, 3-month study abroad in Lacoste, France |
| 2011-2015 | BFA Painting, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA |

Selected Installations

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| 2023 | <i>The Spirit and the Bride Say Come</i> , Site Specific Outdoor Silk Installation. ChaNorth Open Studios, Chashama Pine Plains, NY. |
| | <i>Selah</i> , Site Specific Outdoor Silk Installation. ChaNorth Open Studios, Chashama, Pine Plains, NY. |
| | <i>SCAD Atlanta Exterior Building Painting Installation</i> , 6 digital screens. The Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta, GA |

- 2022 *The Forest Path*, 165 ft. botanical/textile installation, The School for the Arts, West Orange, NJ
Lilies, 600 ft. textile installation, BLOOM Women's Conference, Asbury Park, NJ
- 2017 *Breath, Creation, Prayer*, botanical/textile installation, TEDx Women, Hoboken, NJ

Selected Exhibitions

- 2024 *Buy What You Love Benefit*, Rema Hort Mann Foundation, Storage Gallery, NY, NY
Environment, group show, MK Apothecary, Collingswood, NJ
The Mini Show, group show, Deep Space Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
- 2023 *The Gigantic Miniature Show* group show, Deep Space Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
Art Fair 14C exhibiting artist Jersey City, NJ
Open Studio, ChaNorth International Residency, Hudson Valley, NY
Navigating the Night solo exhibition, Caba Creatives Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ
More Minis group show, Deep Space Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
- 2022 *The Gigantic Miniature Show* group show, Deep Space Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
Over the Moon Art Studios open studio and group show, Asbury Park, NJ
Art Fair 14C exhibiting artist and curator with Bell Works, Jersey City, NJ
Rebirth Into The Light solo exhibition featuring works by Sarah Meyohas in collaboration with Creative Director Paola Zamudio of NPZ Studio+, Bell Works, Holmdel, NJ
- 2017 *Sole Luminoso* solo exhibition, Salon Concrete Gallery, Red Bank, NJ
- 2016 *Skimming The Surface* group show, Elizabeth Dow Gallery, East Hampton, NY
- 2015 *Color Fields* group show, The Lee O'Neil Gallery, Savannah, GA
INTERIM: From Infinite to Endpoint group show, Sulfur Studios Gallery, Savannah, GA
- 2014 *DeFine Art Student Showcase* group show, Alexander Gallery, Savannah, GA
SCAD Open Studio, Alexander Gallery, Savannah, GA
Alexander Ink Juried Printmaking group show, Alexander Gallery, Savannah, GA
- 2013 *Arrigada* group show, Non-Fiction Gallery, Savannah, GA
Travers a la Couleur solo exhibition, Lacoste Gallery, Provence, France
Omnibus group show, Gallery Improviso, Savannah, GA

Honors & Awards

- 2024 Diversabilities Award, New York University
 2017 Young Professional Leadership Award, ATHENA International
 2016 Emerging Leader Finalist, eWomen Network Foundation

Selected Residencies

- 2023 Artist in Residence, ChaNorth International Residency with Chashama Gallery NYC, 1 month, Pine Plains, NY
- 2022 Artist in Residence, Bell Works, 2 months, Holmdel, NJ
 Artist in Residence, Over the Moon Art Studios, 3 weeks, Asbury Park, NJ

Selected Features & Publications

- 2024 NJ Art News, *Garden State Art Weekend Preview, 11 Must See Exhibitions*
by Tris McCall
ARTSY, 'Curators Picks: Emerging Artists of Today' March 2024 by Casey Lesser
- 2023 Jersey City Times, *At A Grand Train Station, Art Fair 14C Opens with A Head Full of Steam*, by Tris McCall
- 2022 TAPinto, *Rebirth Into the Light: Bell Works*
The Patch, *Artist Will Discuss Her Work On Display At Bell Works in Holmdel*
NJ Monthly, *Rebirth into the Light: Spring Art Exhibition at Bell Works*
- 2020 Community Magazine, *Meet Your Neighbors: Franki DeSaro & April Martines*
- 2017 Red Bank Pulse, *Reception at Salon Concrete for Exhibit Preview of 'Sole Luminoso'*
Red Bank Greene, *Artist Franki DeSaro Presents Solo Painting Exhibition Sole Luminoso*

Professional Experience

- 2024 Registrar, HORT FAMILY COLLECTION, New York, NY
Oversee Hort Collection administration in partnership with Susan Hort.
- 2023-Present Director's Assistant, Gallery Representative, REMA HORT MANN FOUNDATION
Event planning and coordination, administration, database, donor, artists and collectors liaison, exhibition installations.
- 2023-Present Spiritual Director, SELF EMPLOYED
Guide one on one session and small group retreats for men and women offering emotional and spiritual support with an integration of art as healing.
- 2023-Present Art Educator, THE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
Teach abstract expressionism and youth arts empowerment.
- 2022-Present Exhibiting Artist, SCAD ART SALES
Participate in virtually accessible SCAD art collections and sales.
- Art Curator and Art Consultant, NPZ STUDIO+ / BELLWORKS, Holmdel, NJ Curated the Fall 2022 Art Fair 14C booth alongside creative director Paola Zamudio. Ongoing designing, planning and organizational responsibilities.
- 2018-Present Non-Profit Co-Founder, LIGHT TO EARTH SANCTUARY, NJ
Expanded the Light to Earth Healing program into a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, leading and creating a safe oasis for women, children and animals on a farm. Ongoing fundraising, team management and leadership, accounting and large-scale event planning responsibilities.
- 2018-2019 Art Educator, CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Bedminster, NJ
Taught pottery, painting and drawing for children ages K-12.
- Art Educator, ONE RIVER SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN, Millburn, NJ
Taught painting, drawing, printmaking and fashion for elementary school children.
- 2017-2018 Founder, LIGHT TO EARTH HEALING, Red Bank, NJ
Created art as healing integrative wellness programs for children, teenage girls and women struggling through depression.

- 2016 **Arts as Healing Director, RAHAB'S ROPE, Mumbai, Goa, and Bangalore, India**
Created and guided art programs and projects with women and children rescued from trafficking.
- 2015-2016 **Art Educator, FOR HEART'S SAKE & LOOP IT UP, Savannah, GA**
Created and led transformational art lessons for at-risk elementary school children.
- 2015 **Project Assistant, KATHERINE SONDAZ, Vernonburg GA**
Assisted with studio tasks, packaging work, painting, ceramics and fibers.
- Art Curator, INDIGO SKY GALLERY: *Project Liminal*, Savannah, GA**
Selected artists and works for exhibition, organized installation, de-installation and performances, managed exhibition marketing and more.
- 2014 **Art Therapy Assistant and Volunteer, RIVERVIEW MEDICAL CENTER, Red Bank, NJ**
Assisted the oncology center art therapist in non-clinical group settings in after care support with past patients through art making and connection.
- 2014-2015 **President, SCAD PAINTING DEPARTMENT CLUB: *Local Color*, Savannah, GA**
Organized studio visits, group exhibitions, artist collaborations, workshops and volunteer opportunities with the SCAD Museum of Art for painting students.
- 2012-2014 **Healing Through Education and Arts Coordinator, SCAD SERVE: Savannah, GA**
Organized healing arts projects for cancer patients with SCAD volunteer students as part of the SCAD volunteer organization.