## **Artist: Holly Rauch**

Holly has always had a creative streak, starting as a child sketching characters from the Sunday comics, and enjoying cross-stitch needlework and paper crafts as an adult. Her recent interest in acrylic painting began by attending "paint parties" with friends. With no formal art education but wanting to learn more, she used online tutorials to teach herself dot art, palette



knife work, fluid acrylics, one-stroke, and other acrylic techniques. She's most passionate about abstract designs, but also enjoys painting landscapes, scenes of nature, flora and fauna.

In 2006, Holly lost her only child, Lyssa, to cancer. Lyssa was 20 years old and a sophomore at Winthrop University in Rock Hill SC, studying technical theater when she passed away. The Lyssa Rauch Memorial Scholarship was established in Winthrop's Department of Theater and Dance, funded entirely by private donations. But when the scholarship experienced financial difficulties, Holly decided to start selling her art and use her hobby to benefit a worthy cause. Now the proceeds from the sale of Holly's art directly funds this scholarship. A \$1,000 award is presented each spring to a rising 4th or 5th year student, keeping Lyssa's memory alive, and helping future artists follow their own passions in the arts.

Holly is a member of the Cayce Arts Guild and the Jasper Guild. She lives in Lexington SC with her husband Todd Leger, Alexandra the Golden Retriever, and three crazy cats: Jaime, Tyrion, and Cercei.

You can view Holly's entire body of work at her Facebook page "Heartisan Love":

https://www.facebook.com/HeartisanLove