

Local Artists Share Their Artistic Journey

By **Mary Beth Sallee**
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Art has long been at the center of Jesse and Jennifer Sims' lives, with each approaching the canvas from a different perspective. Their recent exhibition at the Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum in Bowling Green offered visitors a glimpse into the couple's shared passion for art and the creative journey each has followed over the years.

For Jennifer and Jesse, exhibiting at the Downing Museum carried special significance because of their connections to the museum, Horse Cave artist Joe Downing, and the late Jerry Baker.

"Having our work exhibited at the Downing Museum means a lot to Jesse and I as Joe Downing grew up in Horse Cave where our studio is located," Jennifer said. "Also, we were friends of Jerry Baker and enjoyed being invited to events at his home. We have work that is part of Jerry Baker's collection."

Jennifer teaches art at Hart County High School and serves as a part-time Instructor of Art Education at Western Kentucky University. Art has been an important part of her life since childhood. Although her area of



▲ PHOTOS | SUBMITTED | JENNIFER SIMS
Artists Jesse and Jennifer Sims, left, are pictured at their art exhibit with longtime friends and supporters, Mike Wolfe and Leticia Cline.

emphasis in college was painting, she now works primarily in printmaking and mixed media.

Jennifer's artwork explores the peace and serenity found in nature, human relationships to the natural world, and destinations and relics of the past. Her "Cedar" series is based on a trail in Mammoth Cave and reflects the peace and serenity one can find in nature, much like the peace found in a church with stained-glass windows.

Jennifer's "Landscape" series explores relationships and the ways people nurture one another, much like plants. The work

also examines how relationships can wither and fade when they are neglected and not given care.

Jennifer's mixed-media pieces incorporate monotype prints, painting, collage, and weaving. A recurring theme in her monotypes is destinations and relics of the past.

One piece in the exhibit, "Past Perceptions," holds a particularly personal connection for her.

"The piece that is on our card for the show 'Past Perceptions' incorporates the Farmers Almanac from 1969," Jennifer said. "I often like to incorporate

pieces from the past and (the) image was found in an antique shop and is the almanac for my birth year."

She also has two pieces based on Floyd Collins that incorporate imagery from newspaper reporting about his entrapment.

Jesse is a fine artist, illustrator and muralist who works primarily from Sims Studios in Horse Cave. He works in a variety of media,

ARTISTS
CONTINUED ON PAGE A9

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no plans to sell that for a data center or anything else. The only talk that's been at all up to this point, since that was donated to the county back in '22 or '23, is it would be pretty nice to have maybe a good chain-type convenience store on the corner of the interstate there. That's it. That's the only thing that's been discussed."

Choate reiterated that residents should take some comfort in the county retaining ownership of the property.

"Be a little more at ease that the county of almost 20,000 people owns that corner," Choate said. "We've got control over it versus someone else right now."

Resident Melody Shanaberger said she supported additional education and public meetings but asked that some meetings be held in the evening for people unable to attend during regular working hours.

"I'm all for more discussion on data centers and getting ourselves educated and educating the

public, and I'm all for meetings in different places," Shanaberger said. "However, for some people, evening meetings would be more convenient."

Choate said evening meetings would likely be necessary if the county uses school buildings in different communities to host discussions regarding data centers and zoning.

Once the meeting adjourned, Choate again encouraged residents to remain respectful as countywide discussions continue.

"We're going to have a lot of good discussions," Choate said. "We need to make sure we respect each other, but there's going to be a lot of differences of opinion for sure when we get to talking about the zoning and some of the other issues there."

The next Fiscal Court meeting is scheduled for July 28 at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse. The meeting can also be viewed on the Hart County Fiscal Court Facebook page live stream.

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HART COUNTY MASTER COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Hart Circuit Court in the cases listed below, the following property located in Hart County, Kentucky, shall be sold at the Hart County Judicial Center in Munfordville, Hart County, Kentucky, on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 9:00 A.M., (Central Time), and being more particularly described as follows:

1303 Flat Rock Road, Munfordville, KY 42765

Deed Book 356, Page 16, PID #023-00-00-062.00

Sean J. Curry vs. Orchard Tax Services, LLC vs. Rita Diane Lewis, Unknown Spouse of Rita Diane Lewis, Purchase Area Lien Holdings, LLC, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Unemployment Insurance, County of Hart, Kentucky
Civil Action No. 24-CI-00090

Judgment - \$8,339.65, plus interest as set forth in the Judgment and Order of Sale

1960 Bolton School Road, Bonnieville, KY 42713

Deed Book 314, Page 608, PID #070-00-00-050.00

Dixie Highway Tax Lien Company, LLC vs. Jesse D. Highbaugh, Unknown Spouse of Jesse D. Highbaugh, Cheryl L. Ragland, Unknown Spouse of Cheryl L. Ragland, Graves-Gilbert Clinic, Tax Brake KY, LLC, County of Hart, Kentucky
Civil Action No. 26-CI-00006

Judgment - \$7,168.37, plus interest as set forth in the Judgment and Order of Sale

425 Flint Ridge Road, Horse Cave, KY 42749

0 Flint Ridge Road, Horse Cave, KY 42749

Deed Book 324 Page 479 and Deed Book 332 Page 354
PID # 046-00-00-070.00 and # 046-00-00-086.00

Franklin Bank & Trust Company vs. Anthurium, LLC, Gourav Bhateja, Hart County, Kentucky, Barren River Area Development
Civil Action No. 26-CI-00001

Judgment - \$1,476,682.57, plus interest as set forth in the Judgment and Order of Sale

22 Lone Star Tower Road, Bonnieville, KY 42713

Deed Book 283, Page 213, PID 040-00-00-041.00

Dixie Highway Tax Lien Company, LCC vs. Latisa Coulston, Unknown Spouse of Latisa Coulston, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, Crown Asset Management, LLC, County of Hart, Kentucky
Civil Action No. 26-CI-00010

Judgment - \$7,774.45, plus interest as set forth in the Judgment and Order of Sale

At the time of sale the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price. If, as the successful bidder, you only pay 10% down, you must have a Kentucky Bank to act as unconditional surety on the remaining 90% of the purchase price, plus interest pursuant to the terms of the judgment, which must be paid within 30 days of the Sale date. (The necessary surety form can be obtained at the Master Commissioner's office). The Surety MUST BE PRE-APPROVED by the Master Commissioner's office no later than 12:00 noon on the Friday immediately preceding the sale date to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. A Loan Officer from the preapproved Kentucky Bank must sign the surety bond at the sale. In the event the successful bidder is the Plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit, that Plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the judgment amount. NO FAXED OR EMAILED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The buyer will be responsible for taxes for the year of the sale. The property shall be sold free and clear of all parties named in the above-styled action, but subject to the following: any lien not included in the suit, recorded easements, rights of way, any facts which an inspection or accurate survey might reveal, and the planning and zoning regulations of Hart County, Kentucky. The Master Commissioner does not obtain title inspections or investigate for further liens on the property. The purchaser is responsible for title inspection and/or any additional liens not named in the Judgment and Order of Sale. It is recommended that a title search be done prior to the sale. The purchaser may take possession of the property pursuant to the terms of the judgment. If the judgment does not make provision for possession, the buyer may seek possession of the property through the court system after payment of the full purchase price. The Master Commissioner does not have ability to grant access or possession of the property. The Plaintiff, the Court, and the Master Commissioner shall not be deemed to have warranted title to any purchaser. Said property is sold subject to the Judgment and Order of Sale in these cases which shall be reviewed carefully prior to purchase. Bidders shall be prepared to promptly comply with the above terms. For updates and information on sale cancellations, please refer to the Master Commissioner information located at www.hartcountykymastercommissioner.com.

This the 10th day of July, 2026

/s/ Patrick A. Ross
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