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STROLL®

Terrell Hills

SARAH MILLS BAILEY

FINE ART, LLC



Where did you grow up? How long have you lived in the area? Tell us about your family (spouse, kids, favorite family activity)

I was born and raised in New Orleans, LA and moved in San Antonio in the spring of 2006 after Hurricane Katrina. I always thought we would move back to New Orleans... but almost 20 years later we are still here! I am married to my favorite person, Lee Bailey, and as a blended family we have four children ranging from a 1st grader at Woodridge to a sophomore at Colorado University at Boulder.

Tell us about the events that led up to where you are now (i.e. education, career path):

I followed an unusual path to find myself a painter. I have a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology with minors in Chemistry and French from LSU in Baton Rouge. After college, I pursued a Master of Science degree in Microbiology and Immunology at Tulane University in New Orleans. As a graduate student, I worked in a vaccine development lab that focused primarily on the use of vaccines against diarrheal diseases for children in developing countries. While I was still living in New Orleans, I worked as an Assistant Research Scientist in the Dept. of Molecular Genetics. Our research was focused on creating a new blood pressure medication.

Life itself was under the microscope and under control, orderly and predictable until my older daughter was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 2. The rigidity of work in medical research was untenable and unsustainable with an unpredictable schedule based on the occurrence of seizures. And there was a child to distract from the distress of chronic illness. Delving into the realm of arts and crafts, my daughter and I searched for cast offs to reclaim with paint and fabric. Home décor was the beginning. Soon I branched off into working solely with fabric and started a small business making children's clothes, blankets, burp cloths etc. (I still make custom children's clothes and baby gifts).

It was with the birth of my second child that I had the creative impulse to create a piece of art for her nursery. With trepidation, I began mixing paint and taking my love of color and texture and applying that to canvas. I have now been painting for full time for 6 years and my work can be found in homes all over the country including Charleston, New Orleans, Washington State, NYC, Cinnamon Shore, Austin, Houston, Pagosa Springs, and Terrell Hills.

I found abstract art to be the perfect medium for expressing emotional range, not reacting to life but moving with it.

Tell us about your role in your business either as the owner or position within your organization:

I am the owner (and artist) of Sarah Mills Bailey Fine Art, LLC. As a small business owner, I am involved in every aspect of my company. Not only did I transition from scientist to artist, but I have also learned to build and maintain a website, to photograph artwork, I manage all my social media





platforms and so much more. My husband has been a great help and support as we tackle the unknown together.

Describe a business highlight such as why you started the business and/or what you enjoy most about your role:

I absolutely loved working with an interior designer to find the perfect piece of art for a client. I've worked with Courtney Balsam Interior Designs over the years and together we have placed my work in several homes in Terrell Hills. It is a tremendous joy when a client truly connects with a piece of art I have created. My goal, as an artist, is to not add to the chaos of the world, but to help the world exhale.

Where do you see the future of your business 3, 5 or 10 years?

I hope to continue working directly with clients to create art that speaks to them as well as working closely with interior designers. My goal for the next 3-5 years would be to add the hospitality industry to my client list, specifically restaurants and hotels. I am working with a great printer in

Dallas, so I can now offer high quality giclee reprints of my work. I am really excited about this new offering.

What is unique about your business (what sets you apart from the rest)?

My art is described as abstract or abstract-landscape, but the reality it depicts is quite defined: a child's EEG, a deep breath of sea air, the gathering of courage in the face of despair, opening to hope. The subject matter is endless, vibrant and rich.

Describe your business culture as it relates to how you service your customers:

I believe selecting art should be a very personal experience. Generally, I get to know my clients on a personal level. There are occasions when I don't meet the buyer, for example when my art is sold at Round Top through a vendor. Working one on one with a client to create a commissioned piece of art for them allows a true connection between artist and client. I want the experience of selecting and purchasing art to be more than just transactional.

Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice (whether general or specific) can you offer residents seeking your business services?

My only advice is to buy art that you like and that speaks to you. I would avoid making a purchase based solely on current trends on another person's opinion or aesthetic.

What else we should know about you, your family, or your business?

I love working with clients in the neighborhood and beyond. If you, a friend or family member are looking for original art, or fine art prints, for your home or business please give me a call or swing by my home studio in Terrell Hills. I would love to work with you!



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