

# Bird Art

## Artist: Paula Christensen “I will...paint birds...”

Paula Christensen is freelance artist with her own studio, Paula's Palette. She lives in Cedarburg and is a graduate of MIAD. She has taught art over the past 13 years and is the secretary of the board and programming director for the North Shore Academy of the Arts. She has created outdoor installations for Racine and Green Bay.



**“My mother was an opera singer...from Italy, just very culturally active. I have been painting as long as I can remember and I have always wanted to paint and not do anything else”.**

Paula is a very focused painter; it is what she loves doing the most. So when she considered decorating a bird bath for this project she knew she would use the materials she is most familiar with. She works with children and she wanted to use art materials in her design. She likes the whimsical and so combining birds and art materials together was her first instinct.

Her work for her studio included painting on aprons, tote bags and purses. She also does traditional painting on canvas. She has her own web site and does custom orders. *“I get calls before a birthday party or Christmas or something and I get orders”*

*“The bird bath was a new thing for me. Garden art is not something I have a background in”*

She seems to have taken to this project like a bird... to a bird bath.



The whimsical style of Paula is evident with the mixture of art materials and some of her favorite birds. The names of birds are also used as part of the design under the bird bath lip, finches, hummingbirds, orioles, sand hill crane, chickadees, and bluebirds. There is a cardinal and a sand hill crane on the top. The painter's palette, crayons, pencils and paint brush are homage to the materials she loves to work with. Enamel paint is what she used for this bird bath.

