

The start of Paula's painting career is different from many artists. She never painted growing up. She did not go to art school. She moved to Gainesville, Georgia right out of college, got married, and had a full-time career at Northeast Georgia Medical Center as a Physical Therapist. She specialized in acute care and in outpatient prosthetics. She was part-time when her children were young, and when her daughter, Jordan, started kindergarten she decided to teach herself how to play the piano. After two solid years of daily practice and weekly lessons, she was still horrible at piano. She gave up piano and decided to teach herself how to paint. That was 2004. She checked out books from the Hall County Library on how to mix colors and how to make things look three-dimensional. Hence her first paintings.

Her painting style varies between realism and impressionism. Sometimes she combines the two. Her inspiration comes from her travels, nature, and life experiences. Her love for art and the encouragement of colleagues and family led her to begin painting professionally in 2009. She helped found Gallery on the Square in downtown Gainesville, and is currently an exhibiting member.

When I started painting, I found it so much fun! It was messy. It was relaxing. It was therapeutic. It was my outlet from the healthcare world and the mother-of-two-children world. I began taking some classes and workshops. I never could decide if I wanted to paint still life's or landscapes or maybe learn to do portraits, so I decided to paint a little bit of everything. I developed a love for painting boats and water. Nature has many textures: the changing weather patterns, the layers in the atmosphere, colors in light and shadow, and reflections. I strive to fill the canvas with all of these textures in a realistic yet painterly style, though I find that very difficult sometimes with my analytic brain. I also love painting animals. I love to capture expressions and personalities in a pet's face. My goal is to see a client shed a tear after viewing their pet's portrait for the first time.

