

Nicole Gagner is an artist living and working in Bismarck, North Dakota. She studied in Georgia and California, but is delighted to be living and working on the northern prairies again. Nicole's body of artwork focuses on capturing approachable, everyday moments like veggies straight from the garden, freshly cut local flowers, or a colorful pantry full of canned food. With moments like these as a gateway to art through personal experiences, Nicole's art becomes accessible to a wide range of individuals with different but relatable life experiences. Her vibrant color choices are not only bright and cheerful, but are also pleasant for even those with failing eyesight. In fact, the use of expressive brushstrokes and bold patches of color in place of any delicate realism adds another layer of accessibility- shaky hands or limited mobility does not need to be seen as an impediment to creating art. Learning to "play" a bit with new art materials and a newfound set of skills is a beautiful way to feel involved, engaged and empowered. The social aspect of visual arts should also not be ignored- involvement in class is a wonderful way for students to connect and socialize, but so is talking about and sharing the art they have created! Engagement in the arts is truly an experience that can continue to enrich lives for a long time.

Nicole displays artwork at the Bismarck Downtown Art CoOp, Bismarck Art Gallery Association and has art touring Fargo through TAP's ArtWorks. For more examples of her artwork please visit her website: PainterNicole.com or follow PainterNicole on Facebook and Instagram