



PRESS KIT

*LIVING* **ART: Jo Williams**

*a documentary short film*

director  
SUSAN CAROL DAVIS

producer  
LINDA S. ANDERSON

director of photography  
MATEO AARON GRANADOS

editor  
JEREMY TAUB

A CURIOUS DOG CREATIVE PRODUCTION



**About The Film**  
***LIVING ART: Jo Williams***  
**Seeing the World with an Artist's Eye**

Documentary short film ***LIVING ART: Jo Williams*** features an award-winning watercolorist and longtime resident of Denton, Texas, who, over the past 40 years, has been an active supporter of the arts in the community and beyond. Besides achieving recognition from her profession as an artist and teacher, Jo Williams has volunteered countless hours, playing a key role in the growth and diversity of the Denton arts scene. (TRT 11 min. 14 sec.)

This is the first in a series produced by Curious Dog Creative focusing upon practicing artists who enrich their communities by *living* their art.

Funding for ***LIVING ART*** was provided in part by the Greater Denton Arts Council, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts through a 2016 Artist Microgrant received by ***LIVING ART*** Director, Susan Carol Davis.

**Special features include:**

- Watercolor paintings of Jo Williams  
[www.jowilliamswatercolors.com](http://www.jowilliamswatercolors.com)
- "Texas Longhorns" written and narrated by karla k. Morton, Texas State Poet Laureate
- Original score featuring Trotline's Chris Veon and Chuck Voellinger with Jacob Dill on bass and Clare Barns Warren's classical guitar compositions performed by Polly Maynard.

**Production Team:**

Director	Susan Carol Davis
Producer/Narrator/Writer	Linda S. Anderson
Director of Photographer	Mateo Aaron Granados
Editor/2nd Camera	Jeremy Taub
Sound Design and Color	JMT Productions

**For more information:**

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## Synopses

### *LIVING* ART: Jo Williams

#### Logline

*LIVING ART: Jo Williams* features an award-winning watercolorist, longtime Denton resident and devoted teacher whose drawing and painting from the natural world illustrate what it means to see the world with an artist's eye. (32 words)

#### Medium

*LIVING ART: Jo Williams* features an award-winning watercolorist and longtime resident of Denton, Texas, who, over the past 40 years, has been an active supporter of the arts in the community and beyond. Besides achieving recognition from her profession as an artist and teacher, Jo Williams has volunteered countless hours, playing a key role in the growth and diversity of the Denton arts scene. This is the first in a series focusing upon practicing artists who enrich their communities by *living* their art. Original music by North Texas composers and musicians with poetry by 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, karla k. morton. (102 words)



## **Director's Statement**

### ***LIVING* ART: Jo Williams**

Artists have much to learn from one another -- lessons in life that go far beyond technique and mastering a craft. Jo Williams is someone whom I have known as a community leader in the arts for years but it was not until I began telling her story through ***LIVING* ART** that I experienced Jo's innate qualities of compassion, conscientiousness and courage which all complement her talents.

If she was never to paint another painting, she would always encourage others to do so for Jo wants each of us to see the natural world for the magnificent place it is. Beyond the often hectic pace of daily living or film production, I hope that her artist's eye will become a beacon for my own practice of living life with grace and generosity of spirit.

Thank you, Jo, for living your art and living it well.

Susan Carol Davis  
Curious Dog Creative  
August 29, 2016

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## About Jo Williams

A native Texan, Jo Williams has been painting professionally for over thirty-five years. She is a versatile painter choosing her subjects from the natural world. Much of her work is inspired by her travels primarily throughout the southwestern United States.

Williams lives in Denton, TX, where she is very active in the arts community. She served for three years as President of the Visual Arts Society of Texas and six years as chair of the City Commission for Public Arts.



She has a degree in art education from the University of North Texas and has spent most of her career teaching privately. She taught week-long workshops the last two summers in Provence, France, for Artistic Gourmet Adventures, and will return to France in 2017 to teach in Brittany. She conducts workshops throughout the southwest including Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Mexico. She has also taught continuing education classes for the University of North Texas. In the summer of 2000, she taught in the Colorado Plateau Painting Workshop at Flagstaff, AZ. In addition to teaching, she gives demonstrations for area art organizations and judge's regional art exhibits. She also teaches classes at the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton.

Williams holds signature memberships in Southwestern Watercolor Society since 1991 and the Society of Watercolor Artists.

Her work has been exhibited in numerous regional and national juried exhibitions. She has won a number of awards including Best of Show in the Texas Neighbors Art Competition in Irving and the North Texas Area Art League Annual Juried Exhibition (now VAST) in Denton.

She has had several solo exhibitions including an invitational exhibit at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri and an invitational exhibit at the Center for Visual Arts in Denton. Her work is included in many private collections and public collections including Raytheon, Ben E. Keith Co., Denton Publishing Company, City of Denton, and the Greater Denton Arts Council.

Williams and her husband Johnny won the prestigious Community Arts Recognition Award (CARA) in Denton in 2003. In 2008, Williams was invited to paint an ornament for the White House Christmas tree to represent the 26th Congressional District. Williams attended a reception at the White House for all the artists. The ornament remains stored in the Smithsonian.

[www.jowilliamswatercolors.com](http://www.jowilliamswatercolors.com)

## **Production Bios**

### ***LIVING* ART: Jo Williams**

#### **Susan Carol Davis** Director

Susan diversifies her creative pursuits as director, producer, actress and arts educator. ***LIVING* ART: Jo Williams** is her first directorial project produced with funding contributed by prominent arts nonprofits. Susan previously directed/produced the festival award-winner, "Retno's Refusal" and just completed direction of an inventive short film, "Waking the Dead" with filmmaker Elizabeth Harding. Other producing credits include the documentary feature, "When We Were All Broncos"; Olive Tree Television's web series, "Spirit Horse", and narrative festival short, "The Importance of Blind Dating", featuring Stephen Tobolowsky. Susan holds membership in Women in Film-Dallas along with SAG-AFTRA and serves on the Governing Board of the Thin Line Fest in Denton, Texas. She is the Founder and President of Curious Dog Creative.

*"Each day holds great promise for films to grace other's lives. Film is a medium that helps all find stories which speak to the heart, soul and mind -- no matter the age, geographic location or philosophic roots of the filmmaker or viewer."*

*Susan Carol Davis*

#### **Linda S. Anderson** Producer/Narrator/Writer

Linda has over 20 years of communications and marketing experience in the corporate, government and education sectors. ***LIVING* ART: Jo Williams** marks a return to her love of the performing arts, which began in elementary school and was nurtured all the way along by teachers who allowed Linda to write, star, direct and produce a number of memorable productions for classmates and town folk in her native small town of Delavan, Illinois. Becoming well versed in the process of documentary filmmaking provides Linda with another means of telling stories.

*"And, there are so many interesting stories out there! I am grateful for the opportunity to return full circle to my creative roots and hope to pursue more opportunities in the filmmaking industry."*

*Linda S. Anderson*

## **Mateo Aaron Granados** Director of Photography

Mateo immerses himself in the regional arts scene through filmmaking, photography, writing, and event planning. He is continually inspired by other artists; stories, and actively spreads the word about local talent. Most of Mateo's time is spent managing the Arts section of The Dentonite, a progressive cultural lifestyle blog that aligns with Mateo's personal mission. Mateo recently edited Banter Documentary and is directing another documentary called Old Dirty Basement.

## **Jeremy Taub** 2<sup>nd</sup> Camera/Editor

Jeremy was initially pre-med in school but fell in love with film and eventually graduated from UNT in 2015 where he was Director of Photography for 9 senior student films. He has edited professionally for 8 years and works in video production around the DFW area, including being the editor for the ***LIVING ART: Jo Williams***. His company, JMT Productions, also provided sound design/color for this documentary short. Jeremy looks to further his career in documentary, independent film and music videos.

## **Special Featured Artists' Bios**

### **karla k. morton** 2010 Texas Poet Laureate

karla is the Secretary of the Texas Institute of Letters, Creative Consultant for the Texas Poets Podcast and graduate of Texas A&M University. Described as "one of the most adventurous voices in American poetry," she is a Betsy Colquitt Award Winner, twice an Indie National Book Award Winner, a North Texas Book Festival Award Winner and Finalist for the Montaigne Medal. Morton is the recipient of the Writer-In-Residency E2C Grant, and has eleven collections of poetry. She is widely published, and established an ekphrastic touring exhibit titled *No End of Vision*, pairing poetry with photography. Her nomination has been accepted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, and many students use her work in their UIL Contemporary Poetry competitions. She is one of the first twelve inductees into the *Denton, Texas Walk of Fame*, alongside Norah Jones, O'Neil Ford, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Pat Boone and others. And, in celebration of our National Parks 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Morton began her National Parks Tour with fellow Texas Poet Alan Birkelbach, traveling to 50 of the 59 National Parks, with a percentage of their forthcoming book(s) donated back to the National Parks System.

## **CLARE BARNES WARREN** Composer

Clare holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Humanities degrees from the University of Texas at Dallas where she studied composition with Robert X. Rodriguez. She has written many works for classical guitar including "Fantasia de La Casa de Bernarda Alba," "Cuatro Canciones" and "Los Tapices de Goya," a set of pieces based on the paintings of Francisco de Goya. Her compositions have been performed in the U.S., Mexico, Columbia, Spain and Italy.

Ms. Warren taught classical guitar and humanities with the Dallas County Community College District for ten years and was an award winning Director of the Childbloom Guitar Program for 25 years before retiring from teaching. She continues to compose and is currently working on a sacred text setting for choir, trumpet and organ.

## **Polly Maynard** Classical Guitarist

Polly received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Classical Guitar Performance from The University of North Texas, where she taught for 10 years. Currently she is the Director of The Denton Childbloom Guitar Program, a music education program for young people. Polly has received numerous teaching commendations, including the coveted "Master Teacher Award", which has only been granted to one other person in the nation. Many of Polly's students are awarded college scholarships, win guitar competitions, and pursue professional careers in music. Polly is a frequent performer, introducing audiences to classical guitar, lute, and other early instruments. Her 'informances' are both entertaining and educational, bringing music to individuals who may have little contact with the arts. " A prolific songwriter, Polly has been featured on radio stations throughout the nation. She enjoys performing both as a soloist and with "Miss Polly and Her Tiny Big Band", a favorite group at area music festivals.

## **Chuck Voellinger and Chris Veon** Trotline Vocals and Composers

Trotline consists of long-time Dentonites Chris Veon and Chuck Voellinger on guitar and vocals with Jacob Dill assisting on bass. Chris and Chuck met in the late '80s at UNT and have been playing and performing together regularly for the past 17 years. "Angels and Devils" was the first song written by them in 1989 in an old house on West Mulberry St. And yes, that location has changed a bit .... Now It is the multi-dwelling property right next to the old HMS Art Supply across the street from University of North Texas' Art Building.