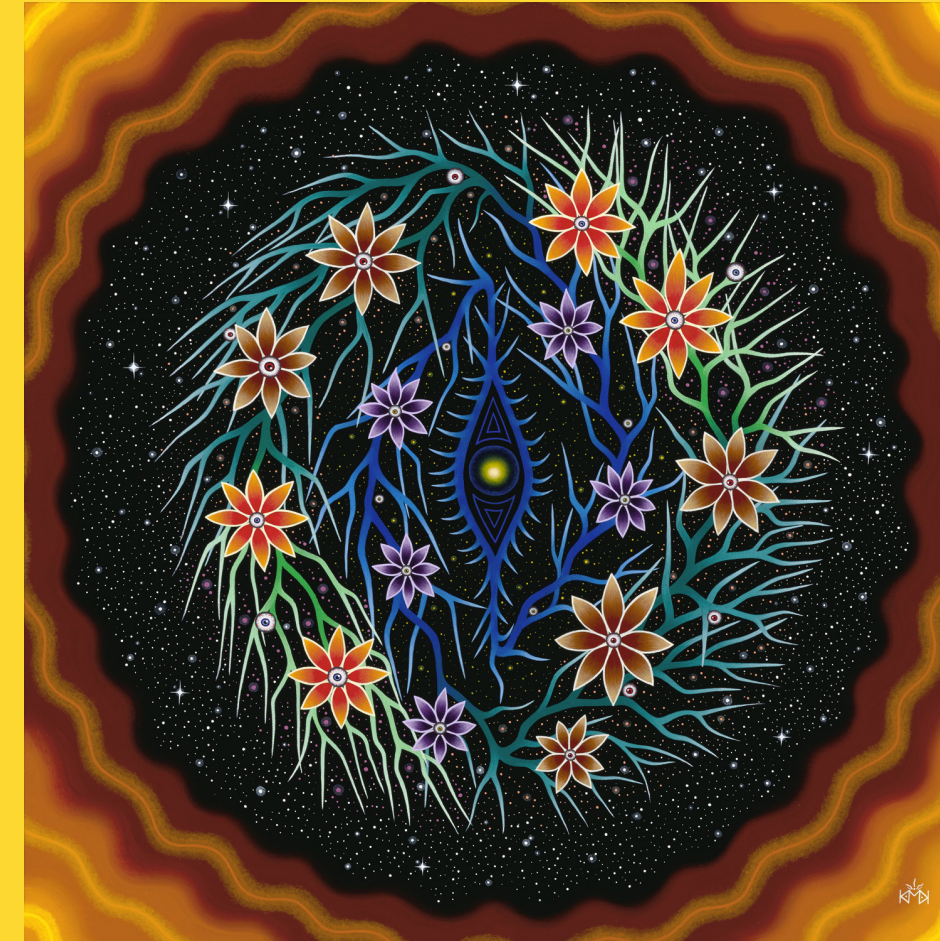


MEET YOUR LOCAL ARTIST

KIRSTEN KAMSTRA

Presented by Eastside Arthouse
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Blooming Eternally Within
Ethereal yet physical, cosmic yet personal—Kirsten Kamstra's art has eyes that stare right back at you, pulling you in, and pulling itself into you.

Through intricate patterns of line and stipple, combined with spiritual and naturalistic imagery, Kirsten's work taps into something profoundly deep and spiritual. Her signature use of the eye (a window to the soul) serves as a muse for her work and the name of her business, EyeBloom Art.

"The eye has come to represent many

things for me—cycles, phases, the soul," Kirsten explains. "It's a way of looking into your inner self and growing from within."

Kirsten's journey into art started in high school. She played soccer, growing up in Colton, but always had creative outlets, from designing clothes to playing music. It wasn't until her senior year, however—after a close friend passed away—that she turned to painting.

This marked the beginning of Kirsten's own self-discovery. Having lost her father at the age of seven, she always struggled with identity. "I didn't really know my father well, and that left me feeling lost for a long time," Kirsten shares.

For the next ten years, Kirsten focused on honing her craft, drawing inspiration from artists like Alex Grey and bands like Tool, A Perfect Circle and Pink Floyd. The deeper she planted herself into her art, the more she began to bloom. This time



of self-discovery also saw her through a difficult relationship. "Finding out who I was allowed me to walk away from that relationship and become who I wanted to be," Kirsten shares.

Opening herself to new opportunities, Kirsten joined The Artlands Creative in Redlands and Eastside Arthouse in Riverside, where she connected with a community of artists and was able to push her aesthetic with larger pieces. She also began doing hand-poked/machine free tattoos, utilizing her penchant for stipple to bring a unique technique to the space with EyePoke Tattoos.

Outside of art, Kirsten enjoys running and yoga. With an upcoming group show at The Cheech next year and community mixers at the Arthouse, she's looking forward to continuing her journey of growth and creativity—ever blooming from within.

"My mission is to inspire others to follow their creative paths," she says. "If you can create something that speaks to you and makes you proud, that's all that matters." Follow Kirsten @eyebloomart or visit Kirstenkamstra.com

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