

A Note from the Curator

Taking Up Space: Women's Connection Stories

Greetings, Fellow Artists,

My name is Nyssa Mariah Barrick, I am a Ceramic Artist represented by The Big Bend Gallery and Galeria Raices, in Alpine and Presidio, Texas respectively. I am curating a women in art show in celebration of Women's History Month in March of 2026 at The Big Bend Gallery in Alpine.

My thoughts for this show sprang from the need for a strong female community. When I started thinking about mine and who made up my circle of women and the connections and the stories that wove us together, I started thinking about portraying those stories through art and what that would look like. I wondered too about others' connection stories and their female communities and what they would look like portrayed in art. All these connection stories and how they bring us closer together and lift us up, empower us and bring us strength when we most need it are of such value and healing, that I feel they should be honored and made a permanent tribute through the process of art.

Additionally, the idea behind "taking up space" is that in our society we as women, are taught from a very young age to not take up space. Be it with our physical bodies, our disvalued voices, our gaslighted thoughts, our intrinsic power, etc. So many of us learn to be quiet, polite, mild, obsessively thin, be sure to not take up too much space on a bus seat, cross your legs and sit like a "lady", etc. It is time to take up the space we deserve to inhabit as human beings. So, let's Take Up Space!

The themes behind this title idea are our raised Female Voices, HERstory, empowerment, the feminine strength that we draw from each other and mustering ourselves to start taking up the space that we deserve. The Female connection, be it family, whatever that may look like...female friends that have supported you, female artists that have inspired you, mentored you, female authors who have spoken to you, etc., who have given you a louder voice to speak your truth. Our individual female communities that we draw our strength and comfort from, connection and healing, and empowerment, all encapsulated into our wonderfully Flame Bearing out loud voices shall be showcased here in "Taking Up Space".

We are the Flame bearers and as such we must build each other up, we rise by lifting others and empowered women empower women so let's be each other's connection stories and show our communities what female strength through our voices in art look like!

Thank you for considering this opportunity, I look forward to collaborating with you in the celebration of the incredible contribution of Women Artists!

Show Curator,

Nyssa Mariah Barrick

Any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

residuethoughtclay@yahoo.com

cell: 432.294.4256