

## Five Central Indiana Artists Selected to Welcome Race Fans in May

**Indianapolis (February 4, 2026)** – The five artists selected to create the 2026 Welcome Race Fans artworks, a culmination of the Hoosier hospitality that welcomes visitors to Indianapolis throughout the Month of May, were announced Feb. 4 by Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indy Arts Council. Selected from a record-breaking pool of 120 applicants, the five artists who will create this year's welcoming artwork are Kirsten Anderson, Jonathan E. Carr, Kylene Dolen, Kenyon Mason and Philip Ramilo.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2026, Welcome Race Fans exemplifies what May means to Indianapolis, both on and off track. Each year, Central Indiana artists are challenged to bring to life what "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" means to the Racing Capital of the World. While some artists work in rich color palettes and others use computer coding as their medium, all Welcome Race Fans artists have drawn on personal connections to share uniquely meaningful stories about Indianapolis and its culture.

"Since the 100<sup>th</sup> Running of the Indianapolis 500 in 2016, Welcome Race Fans art has been one of the first things thousands of visitors see when they come to the city of Indianapolis and IMS for the Month of May," INDYCAR and IMS President J. Douglas Boles said. "As we showcase the more than 80 artists who have contributed to the program over the last decade and welcome five new artists in 2026, we're reminded of the many reasons the Month of May is so special to so many."

This year's artists will create a piece of original artwork, to be placed throughout the city, using their own unique processes and styles to showcase the intersection of art and motorsports. Both two- and three-dimensional pieces of art – like sculptures, carvings and papercraft – were considered and may be created for the program.

- **Kirsten Anderson** is a passionate stained-glass artist who uses the copper foil method to take any picture and transform it into a unique, handcrafted glass design. She strives to select the perfect glass for every artwork, considering color, texture and pattern to ensure each piece tells a beautiful story that resonates, comforts and inspires.
- **Jonathan E. Carr** is a digital illustrator with a career rooted in the expansive character of natural landscapes. Through a deeply immersive creative process, he is guided by principles of balance, beauty and intention to capture the authentic references that fuel his work and capture the dynamic energy of sport and auto racing.
- **Kylene Dolen** is an acrylic painter whose pop-art style layers images and bold color schemes to curate vibrant art collages. Drawing inspiration from nostalgic memories and everyday life, she hand-draws on canvas before layering the art with acrylic paints and finishing them with a crisp black outline.
- **Kenyon Mason** is a 2D mixed media artist inspired by graffiti, portraiture and bold use of color. He combines both dry and wet mediums and experiments with sustainable materials to create expressive, dynamic portraits reflecting the raw energy of contemporary street-style art and his refined traditional skills.

- **Philip Ramilo** is a mixed media artist whose work is influenced by his life experiences and cultural heritage. Through a blend of traditional and contemporary techniques, his art tells compelling stories that explore themes of identity, memory and transformation.

**The five Welcome Race Fans artworks will be unveiled May 1.** To explore the full list of Indy 500 community initiatives and programs, visit [IMS.com/Community](https://ims.com/community). To see an up-to-date calendar of IMS events, [click here](#).

### **About Indy Arts Council**

[Indy Arts Council](#) is central Indiana's leading arts advocacy and services agency. Their mission is to champion arts and culture. Indy Arts Council believes every resident should experience arts and culture in a way that nourishes and inspires them. This vision of a creative life for all is central to the work they do to support artists, arts organizations, and the community.

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