The Icky Factor

Potters and ceramicists, rejoice: There's a workshop space just for you at Icky Love Art Loft & Gallery.

Allyson Pang WORDS | PHOTOS Mark Galacgac

If there is one thing that **JAIMIE NAGLE** takes away from doing pottery, it's that she is often "humbled by clay."

For eight months, Nagle worked on a custom 60-pound 3.5-foot-tall vase — only for its bottom to completely fall off in the kiln. After sitting with herself following the loss, she ended up creating a clay glue to put the pieces back together.

"When things don't work out, clay, at least, makes you realize that you can always start again," she says. "You will always face challenges, but if you feel defeated, if you give up, then that's it like there's just no moving forward. And I feel like I always like to keep going. So, I think that clay humbles you and it teaches you to move forward."

Opening in 2023 and hidden in Tradition Coffee Roasters on Kapa'a Quarry, Nagle has run **ICKY LOVE ART LOFT & GALLERY**, which functions as an art gallery and workshop space.

Inspired by being a mother of two, the business's name draws a parallel between having a newborn baby that is "icky" and, at the same time, having an extreme love for the child, Nagle explains.

"For some, mud is like this yucky material that you turn into something that someone will hopefully love and be in your life," she says.

This "speakeasy for art" features a carefully curated rotation between more than 60 artists. Art ranges from abstract paintings and realistic watercolor to 3D objects, jewelry, books and stickers — all arranged in a way where people can imagine it in their homes and spaces.





OWNER JAIME NAGLE OPENED HER ART GALLERY AND WORKSHOP SPACE TWO YEARS AGO.

Nagle's goal is to support as many women as possible as well as artists who create works that break away from the mainstream aesthetic and have a strong voice or perspective.

For Windward residents who may not be able to drive into town for an art class, Icky Love offers workshops for all skill levels in stained glass, ceramics, acrylic and watercolor, jewelry, collage-making and more.

"If you take my class and you kind of get hooked, I'm going to teach you how to do something in a way where you could do it at your kitchen table with minimal tools like toothpicks and popsicle sticks rather than investing in $4,000 equipment," Nagle says. "Art classes aren't just for kids. I really think that any adult who's interested in just exercising those creative muscles — whether they're very serious or just wanting to try something — you should have the opportunity to do it."

There are also weekly Makerspace Wednesdays for $25 where artists can work on their projects while socializing and getting feedback from others.

Nagle is often busy making her signature mugs, but always does a fun personal project every week.

"I love it so much. And it's one of those arts that you can't ever cap out," she says. "There's so many different things you can do with clay that it never feels like it'll get boring for me.

"When you buy handmade pottery, you're buying it because it's handmade," Nagle says, adding that she owns many vases, jars and about 65 mugs. "When I buy other people's work, I'm looking for things that I know someone has touched to make it the way it is, like something special, something with marks on it, something that lets me know a human did this."

Her message to fellow artists?

"There's so much to bring you down — so much competition, so many people to look out on Instagram or Tiktok — that if you let that infiltrate your thoughts too much, you won't be creating something authentic to yourself," Nagle says. "As artists, I don't know what the future holds, but I think if you're not happy or excited about what you're doing because you're worried about what everyone else is doing, then you're not going to create something that really is meaningful to you. And that's the whole point."





ICKY LOVE ART LOFT & GALLERY 905 KALANIANA'OLE HWY., NO. 3216
LOCATED INSIDE TRADITION COFFEE ROASTERS
808-551-2668 | ICKYLOVE.COM







ASIDE FROM OFFERING SIGNATURE MUGS, ICKY LOVE ART LOFT & GALLERY ALSO PROVIDES WORKSHOPS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN STAINED GLASS, CERAMICS, ACRYLIC AND WATERCOLOR AND MORE.