

violin by CLAUDIA AUSTIN



A self-described Air Force Brat, Claudia Austin has called El Paso home after moving sons, Henry and Nick, from Ann Arbor, Michigan over 30 years ago. Classically-trained in theatre arts, no one could've been more surprised that her years of training and performance led to a career in Marketing and Community Affairs in the financial services industry. Oddly enough, it proved to be a perfect fit. No longer in the performing arts, creativity called. Claudia picked up a canvas, brushes and acrylics and was given the opportunity to study with El Paso artist, Earline Barnes.

The invitation to participate in this year's auction, came midway through the pandemic. She credits the creative process with helping her weather through the remaining months of the COVID quarantine.

Using jewel-toned stones, glass, ceramic and feathers, Claudia's mosaic was inspired by Gustav Klimt's painting, "The Kiss."

Violin photographed by Carlos D. Luevano