

Wine Spectator

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Women, Wine, Walls: Behind the Scenes of Tennessee's Inspired Suffrage Murals

This year marks a major centennial celebration, and some of the top women artists in the country are doing it big: For the occasion of the anniversary of women's suffrage, eight artists and their teams worked 'round the clock to present massive murals in locations around Tennessee, the state whose key ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 made suffrage a reality. To jubilee properly, they poured both paint and wine, with Cycles Gladiator among the proud sponsors of the project, called "Walls for Women."

The artists set their sights on blank walls in Nashville, Knoxville and a host of other towns to bring these scenes to life—on a bank, a bikeshop, Nelson's Green Brier Distillery and other unexpected canvases—in an initiative conceived by public-art advocacy group DMA-Events ("Do. More. Art.").

Artist Jenny Ustick's mural in McMinnville, Tenn., features symbols of influential contributions by Tennessean women to fields and causes as diverse as sculptural art, horticulture and, of course, equality. "I want the wide-ranging stylistic choices in the mural to represent diversity of thought and celebrate many voices and ideas coming together to create something beautiful," Ustick told *Wine Spectator*.

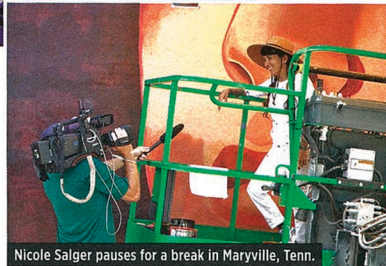
For company Cycles Gladiator, getting involved as a sponsor was a no-brainer, especially respecting its art nouveau label of a nude woman biking. As Anna Frizzell, a representative for the company, put it, "We



Artist Juuri in Tullahoma, Tenn.



The McMinnville, Tenn., mural by Jenny Ustick



Nicole Salger pauses for a break in Maryville, Tenn.



Cymone Wilder and Sarah Painter's Nashville wall

like to say this is a once-in-a-100-year opportunity—you can only imagine how excited we are to be a part of it."

For the grand finale, artists Cymone Wilder and Sarah Painter employed the "squiggle-grid technique" to decorate the enormous wall of the Nashville distillery Nelson's, also a beverage sponsor; it's the ambitious centerpiece of the whole series. "I would love," said Wilder, "for this wall to feel empowering to those continuing the fight for the social issues that are close to their hearts."

—Julia Lombardo



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