



PHOTOGRAPHER GABRIEL BURGOS | WRITER JENNIFER STEVENS | DESIGNER BRIAN BAKER

# LOST AND FOUND

You can spot her old yellow pickup truck creeping down the streets of the University of Tampa’s campus. The windows down. Music off. Kendra in full concentration—looking for “garbage” that might have been tossed out a car window or thrown in a nearby dumpster.

Art professor, Kendra Frorup, isn’t part of UT’s efforts to keep a cleaner campus; she’s an artist who finds beauty in just about everything—even metal scraps and worn rubber tires.

To reach her classroom in the old fairgrounds building, students must

pass through what they’ve dubbed “the graveyard,” the remains of deceased art projects and roadside treasures. A trail of tree stumps, the inner workings of a garage door opener and a concrete boxing glove are just some of the unusual findings leading to Kendra’s Princess Pink-colored office door, which she had painted for her six-year-old daughter, Alexis.

“Every time I ask Alexis what color to paint a sculpture, it’s always pink,” says Kendra. “She’s the inspiration behind a lot of my work—she’s just so happy right now, so innocent. Her laugh and her playfulness takes me back to my own childhood, which I also incorporate into just about everything I do.”

Growing up in the Bahamas, Kendra remembers running her small hands over the steel frames and wooden flooring her father worked with as a contractor.

She thinks back to the feeling of cool linoleum on her bare feet and the sounds of coconuts falling on the ground outside her family’s home. Her most recent works, which were displayed at the Hillsborough Community College’s Ybor Campus Art Gallery in July and August, incorporated white painted coconuts and colorfully painted wood, transporting you to the islands just 50 miles south of Miami, where she currently has an exhibit entitled “Tickled Pink.”

After two years in what she refers to as “the ultimate job,” Kendra has been inspired by many things—most of all her students. “I’m able to flick on a light switch for them,” says Kendra. “I get to show them that beauty comes in many forms, that it’s all around us.” ■

◀◀ Artist and UT art professor, Kendra Frorup, poses in “the graveyard,” a collection of garbage and unfinished art projects she and her students use to create unique and interesting sculptures.

◀ Painted wood and coconuts were displayed as part of Kendra’s exhibit at HCC’s Ybor Campus Art Gallery in July and August.

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Name: Kendra Frorup  
 Medium: Sculpture and print  
 Favorite material to work with: Wood  
 Greatest Accomplishment: Being chosen for the NE4 Exhibition in the Bahamas  
 Biggest Influence: Her college art professor, Gilbert DeMeza  
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