

Artist Statement

Mary Starr

Midland, MI

I taught elementary school for 34 years. Upon retirement, in 1988, I decided to take some painting lessons. I chose a class at the Midland Community Center. Since then I have taken classes at the Center for the Arts and quite a few workshops here and out of town.

Watercolor has become my choice of media even though I work at times with acrylics, inks, pastels, and odd materials.

Subject matter I enjoy working with most are florals, landscapes, and still life. I like doing abstract and non abstract art. I use photos I've taken to finish a plein air painting or just to paint a subject that appeals to me, such as flowers.

Doing art work is very therapeutic. The mind relaxes and focuses on the subject at hand. All else around you just goes into the background of the mind. It is fun to let the picture do the talking, to let the paints do their thing, and surprise me.

It is very uplifting when someone else likes the results of my creative experiences.