

Donna Lanni

Artist's Statement

I have been studying art since my first grade teacher encouraged my mother to get art lessons for me. My mother then enrolled me in painting classes at the City of Rochester (NY) Art Gallery. Throughout junior and senior high school I continued my lessons in Hollywood, FL, where I was named most outstanding art student in my high school class of 650 students.

Unsure if I could make a living as an artist, I received a BA in Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis. However, with the approval of the Dean of students, I took art courses including figure drawing, pastel portrait painting and painting at the WU School of Fine Arts during my four years in attendance. I took painting classes at the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia, Italy, during a summer break, as well as visiting art galleries in Florence, among other cities.

While in graduate school at Southern Illinois University, I studied printmaking, both lithography and etchings.

But my degree in sociology and planning led me to a career in maternal and child health care planning, coordinating multidisciplinary clinics for CESA 12, and finally to 17 years at Washington County, MN as a Birth to 3 Coordinator and Social Worker.

Throughout the years, I have continued to paint in oils, watercolors, pastels, and acrylics. I have attended workshops by nationally known artists Karlyn Holman, Judy Blain, Charles Movalli of Rockport, Mass, Charles Reid, and Ted Goerscher of CA.

My favorite painting is done Plein Air, and I have attended the Port Wing, WI Plein Air gathering of artists for the last two years. I love local scenes, especially those which include our beautiful Lake Superior. Living on Lake Superior in the summers provides me with great inspiration. As a Master Gardener, I also enjoy painting flowers and gardens. I simply paint what I love and know the best.

When I want a break from representational subjects, I love experimenting with multi media abstracts.

My husband and I donate our time in the summer to maintaining a large city garden in Ashland. We also tend the Drewiske Memorial Garden at the Hudson Hockey complex.