

I paint every day using oil and a palette knife. My career began twenty three years ago, shortly after my husband began his career as a F-16 test pilot in the United States Air Force. I went from creatively painting murals on walls and works of art on furniture to fine art on canvas about 15 years ago.

I am now a daily palette knife painter. For the past 10 years I have sold my works worldwide, shipping to a different country every day. I paint because I love art, and I am so fortunate to do what I am passionate about for a living. I took art classes in college and sat in on many workshops with master painters in both Virginia and California. I also studied portraiture and figurative painting at the Corcoran in Washington, D.C., where I used a variety of mediums, from acrylic paint to watercolor and oil. As a student of art, I believed the only way to improve my ability was to paint *plein air*, and so for a period of time I went outdoors to paint landscapes with some artist friends. Painting outdoors taught me to paint quickly, as the light changes fast. During our “paint outs,” I quickly fell in love with the palette knife and the uniquely rich, thick effect the oil paint generates with drags and swirls of textured color.

I don't have a favorite painting. Over my years as an artist, I have painted thousands of unique works. It's been a progression and my style has evolved greatly. To name a favorite piece of art would be like choosing a favorite child. However, a dozen or so of my proudest works usually make it into a customized calendar each year, so I can remember them as they are sold off to new homes around the world.

My work consumes me, identifies me, and keeps me out of trouble. Before painting became my career, I was an elementary school teacher and taught art both in my classroom and also as a volunteer in local schools that couldn't afford an art program. My daughters remember me painting the walls in their bedrooms and classrooms with elaborate murals of sea creatures and hot air balloons. As a family, we moved seventeen times in twenty three years, and brightened the walls of half a dozen different schools along the way.

Other than my art, my family is my life. I adore my husband and our two grown up daughters. They bring me constant inspiration as an artist and joy as a mother and as a wife.