

Nancy Dias Artist of the Month, July 2010



Nancy moved to The Villages from Rhode Island with her husband Wally in 2002 and spent the next few months decorating their home. Throughout her lifetime she had always indicated a desire to take art classes when she found the time.

Finally in January of 2003 she got the nerve to walk into Saddlebrook Recreational Center to explore a watercolor class being taught by Laura Miller. Things started happening fast. Nancy started beginner watercolor classes with Jan Ramsey and along with the Saturday workshops at Paradise, and the Monday session at Saddlebrook, she was hooked, painting every day.

In October of 2003 the Villages Charter Schools conducted a contest called Romeo's Roundup Art Exhibit held at Spanish Springs Town Square. Nine out of 130 paintings submitted by Villages artists were selected to adorn the walls of the new Villages Charter High School, one of those "Butterscotch Baby" was a painting by Nancy.

In addition to the painting selected, Nancy created two other buffalo themed paintings, one was purchased by the Villages Daily Sun and donated to the Villages Charter



High School and the third was donated to the schools by Nancy, she now has three of her artworks hanging in the Charter Schools where her grandchildren attend.

The Villages Art League was the first art group she joined and later when she felt comfortable enough to enter competitions she joined the Visual Arts Association which Nancy served as vice president for two years.

Nancy started displaying her artwork at the VAL Artists' Showcase in 2004 and enjoys the VAA Artists' Round the Square held 4 times a year. At all of these events sharing her art with the public is one of her most rewarding experiences.

Nancy joined Peter Hawes as co-chair of the Artists' Showcase in 2006. Planning and organizing the art shows was a challenge and very rewarding, so much so that Nancy started the first Summer Art Festival in 2007 and chaired both art shows every year for 3 years.

Nancy is an award winning artist in every medium she paints in, watercolor, pen & ink, acrylic and pastel.



Painting has become Nancy's passion, and whenever possible has taken classes and workshops to learn and grow as an artist. The classes she loves the most challenge creativity and originality. Most days you will find Nancy in her studio sketching and painting. Her inspirations come from everywhere, trying to see the world differently and looking for interesting angles or unique perspectives and pushing herself to try something challenging and new.

Although Nancy concentrates on drawing and painting, once she has created a piece, the image is transferred to note cards, which are marketed at local craft and art shows, and on line at her web site www.nancydias.com.

In addition to the rewards of seeing ones imagination come to life on paper, painting has shown her a new way of looking at the world and allowed Nancy to meet new friends who share their passion and knowledge of art.

Nancy feels very fortunate to have her daughter Shannon, son in law Dan, and grandchildren Jocelyn and Zachary living close by. In Nancy's own words, "I feel blessed; life doesn't get any better than this".