

## Artist of the Month—Ruth Ann Maury

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“WHEN I INSPIRE OTHERS TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN PATHS, I FEEL TRULY BLESSED.”

Although I have created art most of my life, it has been as an avocation.

I received my BA from the University of Florida in Language Arts in the following disciplines: English, Speech & Theatre, and Journalism. Years later, I earned a Master's Degree in English Education from Nova Southeastern University.

As an English and drama teacher in the Miami-Dade County Public School System, I incorporated art and music within the curriculum. As a drama teacher, I designed scenery and costumes and taught my students to do the same. As an English teacher, I used drama, music, and art in my literature and composition classes. I also illustrated numerous publications for the school system. The highlight of my 30-year career was being nominated by former students for inclusion in three separate editions of Who's Who Among America's Teachers [1992, 1994, 1998].

My earlier artworks include graphite sketches, charcoal renderings, costume and set designs, watercolor and ink paintings, cartoons, and caricatures. However, in 2001, I began to focus on watercolor and acrylic on paper.

In 2002, I began exhibiting my work. In 2003, I received my first award ribbon at La Galleria. Since then I have received numerous Judges' and People's Choice Awards across the Central Florida region, and it has been fulfilling to donate much of my art for charity events. My works are included in private collections both in America and abroad, as well as owned by churches and businesses in our local area. The “icing on the cake” has been my acceptance into three juried exhibits at the Appleton Museum of Art in 2010, 2012, 2013-14. I am grateful in having my work so well



received, especially with several recent Best of Show awards in Central Florida venues.

Having encouragement from fellow artists, along with my involvement in art groups, fosters my continued growth.

No one is more surprised than I, however, in returning to the classroom by occasionally conducting art workshops and demonstrations. Being invited by various art organizations to share my philosophy, my approach to creating, and my art techniques has been a true honor. When I inspire others to follow their own paths, I feel truly blessed.

