

Artist of the Month—Dore Via Dumas



Dore Via Dumas was born in Richmond, Virginia and has moved over 48 times. She is number two of four girls, the daughter of an Air Force Lt. Colonel and a mother who studied at the Memphis Art Academy. Throughout her travels she learned to appreciate many kinds of art. In high school, she failed art because she didn't want to make her pictures “exactly” like the teacher's. With much help from her mother, she found her own voice. After trying a variety of media, she took a pottery class and discovered her true calling. She could be dirty and not get in trouble and she could make all the things she had been making out of mud as a child.

As a single mother of two children, Dore traveled around Florida and Alabama selling in art shows and shops and galleries and wholesale in the Merchandise Mart in Dallas, winning numerous awards for her work. She also taught pottery to children. Years later, she attended the University of South Alabama and received her B.S. in Special Education and a Master's of Information and Library Science at the University of Southern Mississippi. Throughout her teaching career she continued to make her pottery and was a Master Potter at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Another medium that interested her was mosaics. As a teenager, she lived in Italy where she visited Spilembergo Mosaic School and fell in love with the color and texture of the glass. Later in life she decided to learn about mosaics. She is a self-taught mosaic artist.



After retiring from teaching, Dore moved to The Villages and joined the Mulberry Clayers and Sculptors and the Small Wonders Miniature Club. She incorporates pottery with miniatures and creates tiny worlds. She also belongs to the VAL, VAA, Tennessee club and the Belle Aire Society.

In July, 2016, Dore went to Certaldo, Italy, for ten days to study animal sculpture. On returning, she shared her knowledge and experiences with the Mulberry Clayers and Sculpture Club. Her philosophy is to have fun and create things that give her joy and to remember “there are no mistakes in art, only creative opportunities.”

