

## Artist of the Month—Marlene Jensch

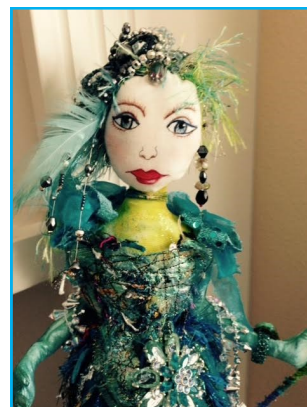
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My name is Marlene Jensch and I am an artist.

It took awhile for me to say that out loud. But, while taking one of my first art workshops during the winter in Naples, FL we were given a homework assignment to tell 3 people, "*I am an artist.*" At first, I was not comfortable saying that. However, when I got home from class, my husband asked me if I enjoyed the class. I told him "yes", and guess what, "*I'm an artist.*" After that, it became easier to say and I am now confident in making that statement.



Mediums I enjoy are watercolor, mixed media, collage and fiber. Fiber was my very first journey into the art world. While living in Cincinnati, Ohio, I joined an art quilt group and an artistic figures in cloth group, or as I call them "art dolls." I took lots of workshops to learn all I could about making art quilts and art dolls. I needed some help with color theory and value in picking fabrics for my projects and a friend suggested I take some watercolor classes.



In early 2005, we discovered The Villages and began spending winters here. I discovered the Art Workshops at The Villages LLC and took all the classes that appealed to me. Some of my favorite artists are Karlyn Holman, Birgit O'Connor, Gerald Brommer, Sterling Edwards, Sharon Wilson, Jeanne Willette and more.



I am very thankful for the wonderful friendships I have made through The Villages art organizations. I belong to the VAL, VAA, Hibiscus Watercolor group, Allamanda Chapter of the Quilting Guild of The Villages and a newly formed Art Quilt Group.



Thank you for the honor of being the VAL Artist of the Month.