

Artist of the Month—Michael Pintar



My interest in the arts started as a teenager when my grandmother took me to the Pacific Ocean for an afternoon of oil painting by the seaside. Little did I know that plein air adventure would propel me into other artistic avenues for the rest of my life.

I received a degree in graphic design at Milwaukee Area Technical College. I took a job as technical illustrator, then started my own technical publishing company, got married and had a daughter. I continued to produce “non-marketable” oil paintings and pencil portraits on the side. In 1998 work took me to Grand Rapids Michigan and I joined



the Grand Valley Artists group where I painted alongside several nationally recognized artists who introduced me to pastels. I also started Aspiring Artists, an after-school drawing program for elementary kids, which grew to where I needed 3 other artists to help deliver the program to a dozen schools.

In 2002 I moved back to Waukesha, WI, and was fortunate to be represented in two galleries. I won several awards at plein air events and juried competitions. My body of work expanded to include landscape, abstract and portraiture using oils, pastels, acrylics and graphite.

I am currently teaching *Intro to Oil Painting* at The Villages Enrichment Academy. I have entered several more plein air competitions in Florida and last year won First Place at the Winter Park quick paint event. I am also grateful The Villages selected four of my paintings to be part of their permanent collection at the Village of Fenney rec center. I continue to paint for enjoyment and learning how to express myself through a variety of mediums.

