

## Artist of the Month—Dore Via Dumas



I was born in Virginia. My father was a pilot in the Air Force. My family moved and traveled all over the world. My mother was an artist and a strong force in my creativity. When we lived in Italy, we visited a mosaic school in Spilembergo and I fell in love with mosaics and glass. As an adult, I decided to learn mosaics and taught myself. I created mosaics for many years.

After trying all forms of two dimensional art I took a pottery class and found my art passion. For the last 45+ years I have been a potter. Pottery was my profession for many years; traveling shows with my two children and selling in art shows

and galleries in Florida, Kansas, Alabama, and Tennessee. I sold wholesale through the Dallas Gift Mart.

Later in years, I got my Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and a Master's in Library and Information Science. I taught school for 30 years, starting in Orlando, and retiring in Sevierville, Tennessee. In the summers, I was a Master Potter at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge.

I moved to The Villages in 2013 after the death of my husband and soon joined the Mulberry Clay Group and the Sculptors Group. I was one of the kiln "goddesses". I now teach pottery handbuilding through the Enrichment Academy at First Responders Rec Center. I am also the leader and founder of the First Responders Claymates club.

In 2016 I went to Italy to take an animal sculpting course. I spent five days elbows deep in clay and five days wandering around Florence. What better vacation than clay and Italy?

My other passion is dollhouse miniatures. I have over 20 miniature room boxes and one dollhouse in my house. I love creating tiny worlds that draw the viewer in and say "I want to be there". Some of my rooms have pieces that I collected as a small child.

Welcome to my world whether it's in a tiny room or in a pottery fairy house.

