

## *Artist Karen Brooks...*

I have always wanted to be an artist. I drew pictures as a child and played with oil painting as a teenager. I couldn't wait to get into high school art class to learn how to really paint. I was so disappointed when I got there and found that they really didn't teach you anything but just assigned you a project and told you to do it without giving any instructions at all. Being from a poor family I was not able to go to art school or college so I got married, had children and got a job. Here and there through the years I took a painting class only to find the same thing - no real teaching. Just "do what I did"; which they mostly did while I was busy trying what they'd done previously and couldn't watch them.

Then one day I discovered Bob Ross on tv and was in 7th heaven. Here at last was someone willing to not only demonstrate but actually explain how and why he did what he did. He really taught! So I began to paint but time and money were always in short supply so I put it away after awhile. After I retired I got sick one December and spent 3 months indoors recuperating. To fight the boredom I began surfing the internet and found youtube. On YouTube I saw these videos of people pouring paint out of a cup and making beautiful paintings. I thought "I have got to try this!" That was two or three years ago and I've been trying it since then. I've tried various types of acrylic pouring and have moved on to resin pouring and am now trying different kinds of abstract art in an effort to learn more about art in general. Though my first love is realism and oil landscapes I am enjoying exploring abstract art and plan to try my hand at spray paint art. I am just having fun with art and am gratified that some people seem to enjoy what I've done. There are some wonderful artists on YouTube and other websites and I so appreciate the opportunity to learn from them. I want to continue growing as an artist and trying new styles and techniques far into the future. Joining Jefferson City Art Club was a welcome step in that direction.