

Lorraine McFarland, Award-Winning Pastel Artist and Instructor

When it comes to my art, I am a late bloomer. I went to University of Missouri - Columbia to major in art. However, when I saw what the other students could do, I changed my major, thinking I was not artistically talented. I was 19 years old.

Fast forward to my mid-forties after several other careers – some I enjoyed, some, not so much! My father always told me I could learn everything I needed to know to be a good artist by reading, practice and watching master artists paint. Although our relationship was strained at best, I do remember feeling close to him when I sat by his side, watching him paint a mural on the wall of our living room, asking endless questions, and getting insightful answers that stuck in my mind. So, while I quit work to care for my mother-in-law in her twilight years, I took his advice to heart and started reading a lot about art history and techniques. In 1997, I pulled out the supplies he left me from their hiding place in the basement and began drawing and experimenting. I took some drawing classes and a watercolor class. When I took a pastel class at the local vo-tech I fell in love with the pastel medium and over the years have studied with some of the finest pastel artists in the world, including Richard McKinley, Maggie Price, Liz Haywood-Sullivan, Marsha Hamby Savage, Doug Dawson, Desmond O'Hagan, and Alan Flattman.

My work now hangs in many homes and corporate locations in the U.S.

I love to share my experience through teaching! I have learned so much from my own teachers over the years. Now that I have achieved some of my goals I want to give back. Watching a fellow artist or beginner work and achieve their artistic goals, no matter how small, is one of the greatest joys of my life. Not to mention, I learn something new each time a step up to teach!

Some Comments from Lorraine's Students

"I think the organization, presentation, and demonstrations were effective. Personal assistance was very good and I cannot imagine how it (the workshop) could have been better. "

"I am not being overly exuberant. This is one of the best workshops I've ever taken. Engaging and fun, and I learned so much. The pacing was very good and the time just flew by. Thank you!"

"Lorraine is not only a talented artist; she is also a gifted teacher. She brings her joy of art and nature and her heart and soul to her students."

If you are interest in arranging a workshop or learning more about Lorraine's accomplishments, go to her website www.lorrainemcfarlandart.com

