



Thomastina Simmons-Fenn

Artist/Illustrator/Designer/Teacher

Born in New York City in the 50s, her parents moved to Georgia where she and her three siblings spent their early youth. Thomastina Simmons-Fenn's artistic genius was evident at an early age. Her mother states "She has been drawing since the first time she held a pencil." She started school at two years old by second grade she was teaching her peers how to draw. From 4th to 6th grades she was put in charge of her all visuals, updating and decorating main bulletin boards in her elementary school. Her family moved to California in the 60s and at age 16 she graduated from High School. While attending College she was drafted by

Hughes Aircraft Company for their Graphics Arts Department. Working at Hughes as a Technical Illustrator/Draftsperson gave her a broad spectrum of work.

Her time at Hughes gave her the hands-on graphic experience that equals a Bachelor's in Technical Illustration and Drafting. She won four awards for Technical Designs and Excellence in performance. Married from 1974-1989 to a museum curator, she raised four children while living in six major cities and two foreign countries. This has given Thomastina an excellent base for all of her creative endeavors. During this time she had several art related business that included an airbrush-silk screen t-shirt company, wall murals and accents, wearable art, design and garment construction.

While living in California from 2001- 2003 she worked with U. R. 4 Social Change as the Art Director and teacher of after school programming. The project "Book to Canvas" was an artistic success. She also illustrated a book for Head-start program in conjunction with a professor at Bakersfield University. Thomastina is particularly sensitive to children with special needs, having raised a handicapable son herself. She wrote and illustrated a children's book directed towards handicapable sensitivity, based on her own son's experiences entitled, "**Baby Bird Gets New Legs**". Thomastina has received the P.O.W.E.R.S., award for her volunteer work with children's charities and letters of appreciation from Children's' Hospital for sponsorship with "Pets for Kid:" She is also active with "Toys for Tots". She continues her never-ending education in Visual Communications and Color Therapy for Wellness thru the Arts. Thomastina is an illustrator with the heart and spirit of an angel. Thomastina travels the country creating one of a kind art pieces for tourist, guest and community businesses based on request. She continues to work on programs and projects in Art for Children aimed at promoting mental wellness, achieving self esteem and increasing self worth.

With strong connections with the universe and the secrets within, Thomastina has a keen eye for fine art and spends time drawing personal caricatures, portraits and objects. She is a proud mother, grandmother and friend, find out more about Thomastina at www.shadepublishing.com