



## Mary Montague Sikes

Although her first art training did not come until her college days at the University of Mary Washington, award-winning painter and author Mary Montague Sikes says she has always been an artist and a writer. From early childhood days in Fredericksburg, Virginia studying cloud formations, she has loved color and dreamed of how it might be used in unusual and exciting ways.

At the College of William & Mary, she discovered acrylic paints and fell in love with sculptural form and design. Later, she studied painting and earned an MFA degree at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Over the years, every art medium has attracted her attention at some point and brought joy to Forever Magic Studio in West Point, Virginia. Working on both wooden panels and canvas, she currently is experimenting with oil and cold wax as well as anything that brings texture to her work. The delight of intense watercolor on Yupo (a synthetic paper) also intrigues her.

She has traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean and often brings the sights and sounds of exotic places into her writing and art. Often, she paints and writes intuitively which led to publication of her books, *Spirit Visions Soul Songs* and *Artful Angels*. Her latest writing project is a set of meditation cards due out later this year.

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