



Diane Clise is artist of the month

Diane Clise is the artist of the month at the Alma Community Art Center. She is a Mid-Michigan artist who grew up in the suburbs north of Detroit. Inspired by her parents, she dabbled in a variety of art mediums as a child. High school brought a focus on wheel-thrown ceramics and a scholarship to the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. Professionally, Diane Clise has been a registered Occupational Therapist for the past 40 years. She has worked in mental health, geriatric and pediatric settings and has recently retired from the Gratiot-Isabella RESD after 18 years of service there.

She and her family moved to this area from the Ann Arbor area about 20 years ago when her husband took an engineering job at the Total Refinery. At that time, she began oil painting, following in her father's hobby. Oil painting led to watercolor painting, which led to teaching watercolors to children and adults. She enjoys the freedom and versatility of watercolors and its many possible techniques and she focuses on her Michigan landscapes, attempting to capture the colors and emotions of the many seasons of nature that have so touched her life. Her husband's hobby of beekeeping has spurred her into new artistic directions with encaustic, which is painting with colored, melted beeswax. Diane also has been enjoying work with watercolor batik techniques on rice paper.

She has taught, displayed in galleries and has had exhibitions and shows in Chicago and various areas of Michigan. Her work has been published in *Fine Arts of the Great Lakes*, by Phyllis A.H. Dobson. Two years ago she was the Artist-in-Residence in Glen Arbor, Michigan. Diane strongly believes she should share the gift she has been given, adding that "When a person sees something that appeals to him or her, it speaks to the artist within... I try to help my students interpret what they see and feel through color and shape".

She has been a member of the Creative Arts Guild of Mid-Michigan for almost 20 years, has served as its President for the past 6 years, and now has moved to its Exhibitions Chairperson. She is currently Vice President of the Pine River Arts Council and is President of the Board of Directors for Alma Community Art Center.

Diane has been one of the primary visionaries for our Community Art Center, donating endless hours to its development and programming utilizing the resources and volunteer members of the community to make a shared vision into a reality. She and her husband Chuck continue to volunteer countless hours of work to the renovation of 318 Woodworth, future home for the Alma Community Art Center. She feels that Art is a universal language which should be shared by all, in knowing, seeing and doing. A Community Art Center in the Gratiot county area pulls people of all ages together and can provide many positive experiences for them to fully develop as a person. As Diane says, “an Art Center becomes a place where Creativity and Community can meet...”

Diane will be teaching the next special event of Uncorked Painting Session on Thursday, September 26 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Hometown Cellars located at 108 E. Center St. in Ithaca, Michigan. This special event features a fall watercolor painting and the \$30 fee covers all materials for the class. Light snacks will be provided and you will have the opportunity to purchase, for your enjoyment, a taste of local flavors made by Hometown Cellars.

Small classes or “Arty Party” can be arranged by appointment. For more information on small classes or to reserve your spot for the special event of Uncorked Painting Session on Thursday, September 26, visit our website at www.alma-cac.org, or call 989-463-8366 or just stop by the Art Center at our temporary location at 312 Woodworth Avenue in Alma. We are open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with Thursday evening staying open until 6:00 p.m.