

Garden Walk

Mary Muller

East Gallery

September 10 – January 21, 2023

Bio:

Mary Muller was born in Illinois, the 2nd of 4 children. She graduated from Bloomfield Hills High School, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in a class of 24. Majoring in Studio Art, Muller graduated from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois.



After her marriage to Bill Muller of Des Moines, she began to pursue her art when their youngest of 5 children entered school. While studying with Dimitar Krustev in Des Moines, she began teaching art to help augment the family income. This opportunity became a career coupled with her painting. Drawing about 1000 portraits in art festivals and fairs, studying with Robert Brackman in Connecticut, teaching watercolor at the Des Moines Art Center, represented by several art galleries, and traveling in Mexico and Europe on painting trips has given her an entire life and beautiful experiences. Portrait commissions have become a significant painting activity, while she struggles to work in as much landscape as possible. Teaching workshops in Iowa and other states and entering local and national art competitions have allowed her to earn some awards and success in and beyond Iowa. Her volunteer efforts have centered around teaching inmates at the Mitchellville prison.

Artist Statement:

The application of lighted abstract forms to nature and arranging them in balanced design has been the base from which I work - in any medium. The power of color becomes increasingly apparent to me because it is so influenced by the changes occurring in the atmosphere around it. I love the form and am especially drawn to pastel and oil because their opacity is perfect for establishing a form. (I have found watercolor more of a medium of suggestion and have not used it for some time, although the challenge of its transparency is inspiring.) Portraits are a perfect vehicle for form, and I especially enjoy drawing out the inner sensitivity of the subject.

Because teaching takes up a lot of my time, I have not yet tired of exploring the effect of painting on a red background, a chief interest of mine since 2000. I have a series in mind of some large florals, in some of which I will be studying this effect. Who knows? I rarely plan the future. It has a way of opening up for me and unfolding. - Mary Muller