



Gail Darnell – Fine Art

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My first interest in art began in the 1950s when I won a blue ribbon for a drawing entered by my teacher in the school's art competition. In the 80s, I took several art courses at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, in conjunction with completing courses for my Information Technology Intern Program job requirements. Around 2006, I took several painting classes that inspired me to start preparing for my second career as an artist. Since 2006, I have been painting in a variety of mediums including acrylic, oil, and watercolor.

I am originally from West Virginia, but have lived in Virginia since 1969. I live in Woodbridge, Virginia with Steve, my husband of 26 years. I retired from my 35+ year Information Technology career with the Federal Government, as a Department of the Army Civilian on July 30, 2011. I believe that many of the skills from my technology career relate to my career as an artist, such as my analytic ability to see, analyze, interpret, and portray intricate details in my artwork. As well, many of the business skills from my career have prepared me for the business aspects required of an artist.

I am mostly self-taught from reading and applying techniques from other artists and am continually learning and evolving my own painting style. As a predominantly realistic artist, I love to portray intricate details in my paintings of landscapes, gardens, houses, seascapes, portraits, animals, birds, fruits, nuts, flowers and other interesting subjects. I use a number of methods to develop compositions for my paintings to include plein air, still life compositions, and reference photographs. My main objective when drawing and painting is to not merely copy what I see, but to capture the accuracy of all the little details that make the subject interesting. With each new painting, I work to convey to the viewer, the mood, the color, the play of light, and other significant aspects of the composition while ensuring the perspective is accurate. I have a strong love of flowers and plants and am attracted to floral scenes and landscapes that have architectural interest. If I can convey to the viewer the awesomeness of God's creations in the beauty of the natural wonders around me, then I have accomplished the reason for my artwork.

I have an initial artist site at FineArtAmerica.com at URL: <http://gail-darnell.fineartamerica.com>. My husband and I have been working to create accurate color images of my artwork for upload to the site.

Becoming a member of the Artists' Undertaking Gallery Oct 4, 2011 is my first action to begin marketing my artwork.