



*Iris*

**Sharlene Welton**

Artist

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Sharlene Welton’s art story is rooted in her childhood. As a youth, her mother’s penciled drawings of women made a lasting impression. Her aunts were talented painters, ceramicists, and seamstresses. And so it was while growing up in Michigan with seven siblings that drawing and painting made its way into her heart and head.

A leap into the future put Sharlene at Eastern Michigan University where she augmented a teaching degree with art classes. For 21 years she taught.... young children first and then art in the public schools. A combination of art and childhood has always been at the root of her passion.

Teaching art classes brought back the therapeutic impact of drawing and painting from Sharlene’s youth. It became clearer to her, that after teaching, she needed to focus more on her creative roots. In 2011, a personal art studio became a reality. Not long after that, she was commissioned to paint murals of whimsical figures of children in an elementary school and several paintings of women for a hair salon.



*Relax*

From 2015-2018, Sharlene continued her art pursuits by becoming involved with gallery exhibitions and shows in the Detroit area including The Scarab Club, Detroit Artists Market, Village Theatre in Canton, Plymouth Community Arts Council, River’s Edge Gallery in Wyandotte, Huron Valley Council for the Arts, and the Door of Opportunity project in Detroit, to name a few. Painting trees and flowers and places with connections to childhood memories remains her primary focus. Recently however, she has also been exploring more meditative themes, concentrating on the beauty of geometric forms and introspective realism.



*Dandelion Wishes*

Sharlene primarily paints using both brushes and palette knives as her tools – however she also likes to explore using a variety of everyday objects and other media as well. She enjoys creating with lush acrylic colors onto canvas, wood and/or walls. For Sharlene, the pleasure of painting and drawing acts as both a refuge and an avenue for new adventures.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Not just any art.

Sharlene Welton aspires to connect the natural world with the joy of family, the comfort of home, and the quiet calm of beauty. Her art works as a personal scrapbook of her emotions, an escape back in time, and a safe refuge against despair.

With brush and palette knife in hand (and at times a myriad of everyday objects and mediums), she uses colorful, fluid acrylics to capture people, places and more often, nature through her experiential lens, striving to communicate their timelessness and grace.

Not just any art.



*Detroit Blues*