



SHARON LEE DILLENBECK ROKITA

37518 Grantland, Livonia, MI 48150

734.673.2002

dmartist1@aol.com

- ◆ **Business Owner**
- ◆ **Community Activist**
- ◆ **Award Winning Artist**
- ◆ **Educator**
- ◆ **Wife, Mother and Grandmother**

**Dedicated to Promoting the
Benefits of Art in Our Lives and
the Lives of Those Around Us**

TEACHING / CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT



1983 to Present

Sharon Lee Dillenbeck Rokita **founded D&M Art Studio** in Plymouth's Old Village in 1983. She addressed her community's need for an environment and class structure that would integrate creative techniques with her own enthusiasm and passion for art. She encourages people of all ages and abilities to discover, learn, develop and expand their artistic creativity. She has developed and continues to offer an outstanding variety of courses and programs for children, teens, adults and seniors which, in addition to art instruction in a wide variety of mediums, enhances the relationship and communication between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, as well as the community and local artists.

Ever mindful to address the special needs of the entire community, Sharon created classes for young people to earn **Scout badges**, and she has always encouraged participation by and created programs for the **physically and mentally challenged**. In more recent years, she has offered **free art classes for area Veterans**.

In 1984, **Wayne County Community College** opened their Western Wayne County Campus in Canton and sought the services of experienced art instructors. They contracted Sharon Dillenbeck to develop and teach courses for them. In 1995, her curriculum was converted to **Plymouth/Canton's Adult Education Program**.

While exhibiting her work at popular local events, such as Plymouth's Art in the Park, Sharon recognized the need for an interactive project for kids. What better way for youngsters to get the recognition they so desire than with **Face Painting!** This continues to be a popular draw at many community events, such as Canton's Liberty Festival, in which Sharon is involved.



Sharon's daughter Kristen doing face painting at Canton's Liberty Festival.

TEACHING / CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED):

1990 was the year Sharon introduced her **Summer Art Camps for Kids** program. This brainstorm has been so well received that **Westland Parks and Recreation Department** has embraced it, providing an additional location to make her popular program available to an even wider audience. The track record of this and other programs developed by Sharon Dillenbeck has been well documented in print and cable TV media coverage for over 30 years.

In 1997, with cutbacks in public school art curriculums, as well as an increase in the “**Home Schooling**” of children; Sharon realized the need for a larger facility that would fill this void. She moved D&M Art Studio to Canton’s Golden Gate Shopping Center and introduced “**Once Upon an Easel**” which offers courses to stimulate the creative juices of an inter-generational population.

Recognizing the lack of qualified art teachers in our area, Sharon expanded her D&M Art Studios’ course offerings to include **Teacher Development**. This is a nurturing, educational environment that has encouraged many of her protégé’s to make art the focus of their life’s course, be it teaching art, art as a profession or being a patron of the arts.



Young Dancer, oil by Sharon Lee Dillenbeck Rokita

During the winter 2001-2002 season, Sharon was asked to develop and instruct a **Watercolor for Adults** course for the **Windjammer Cruise Line** in the British Virgin Islands. This highly successful program lead, in 2002, to her development of the innovative **Junior Jammers “Under the Sea”** art program to accommodate the instruction of 500 students aged 6 to 16 for two cruise ships. She not only developed the curriculum, but also she **provided on-site training for the instructors** in Nassau, Grand Bahamas, and she ordered all the supplies, which would be required for the program.

The highlight of Dillenbeck’s much sought-after talent is a recent contract awarded to her to develop the **REASA Workshops** on “Taking a Line for A Walk” Drawing and Painting **course for educators**.



Carson, oil by Sharon Lee Dillenbeck Rokita

MEDIUMS:

Acrylic Paint
Airbrush
Ceramics
Colored Pencil
Charcoal
Clay
Fashion Design
Marbling
Oil Paint
Paper Mache'
Pastels - Chalk & Oil
Pencil
Pen & Ink
Printmaking
Quilts
Sand Art
Scratch Board
Soft Sculpture
Watercolor
Watercolor Pencil
Weaving



PROGRAMS / WORKSHOPS / EVENTS:

Adult Fine Art Programs - Basic to Advanced
Art Day Camps
Birthday Parties
Calligraphy
Canton Project Arts
Canton Fire Station Color Sheets
Canton's Oakwood Hospital Coloring Book
Cartooning
Chalk Pastels
Children's Introduction to Art Classes
Face Painting
Grandparents and Grandchildren Programs
Graphic Design
High School Portfolio Preparation Classes
Ladies Dillenbeck
Oil Painting
Oil Pastels
Open Studio
Painter's Pallet Parties
Physically and Mentally Challenged Classes
Plein-Air Painters of Canton in Heritage Park
Senior Citizens Fine Art Programs
Scout Badge Workshops
Teacher Development Training
Teens - Basic to Advanced
Theme Classes (Celebrate America, Going Buggy, Ancient Egypt, etc.)
Veteran Classes for free
Windjammer Cruise Course Development and Instruction of Teachers
Windjammer Cruise Instructor
Wood Painting
Workshops



SELECT WORKS OF ART BY SHARON LEE DILLENBECK:



EDUCATION:

Graduate of **Art Institute of Pittsburgh, PA**
Schoolcraft College, Vickie Brett - Watercolor, Oil Painting
Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Association - various workshops and classes
Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) - various workshops and classes
Electra Stamelos - Watercolor
Eddie Joppichs - Watercolor
Walter Kevilose - Watercolor and Oil
Chappy Valente - Oil
Three Cities Art Club - various workshops

EXHIBITIONS & PERMANENT COLLECTIONS:

Canton Library - Exhibitions (7)
Canton Liberty Fest - Annual Exhibitor
Plymouth Fall Festival - Annual Exhibitor, 1993 Featured Artist
Art in the Park, Plymouth - Annual Exhibitor
Old Village Art Association Festival, Plymouth
Three Cities Art Club (7 Spring, 2 Fall and 3 Winter), 1993 Best of Show;
2001 2nd Place Mixed Media; 2002 3rd place Oil/Acrylic;
2002 Honorable Mention Watercolor
J. Giordano Gallery, Northville
Livonia City Hall - (5 Spring and 2 Fall)
Schoolcraft College - Featured Artist
Women of Artistry - 5 Women Show at The Marriott, 1992—1996
Henry Ford Hospital, Dearborn
M-Care Health Center
Wall Murals and Stain Glass Designs in Churches, Businesses and Homes
Frame Works Gallery, Plymouth
Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
The Art Gallery, Garden City
D & M Studios Gallery, Plymouth / Canton 1983 – 2024

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS:

Canton Project Arts Council, Founding Member
Canton Chamber of Commerce
Visual Arts Association of Livonia, former Vice President
Russell Isbister Art Awards of Plymouth, Co-Chair
Three Cities Art Club, Member from 1984 to present,
President for 5 years
Women of Artistry, Founding Member
Plymouth Community Arts Council, Board Member
Windjammer Cruises, Program Development, On-Board
Course Instruction, Instructor Training
REASA, Courses for Educators



Sharon speaking at the “Cultural Arts: The Bridge to Building Better Communities” hosted by Canton Community Foundation.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:



Local artist Vincent Maiorana creates a wonderful landscape during a concert at Plein Air Painter of Canton in Heritage Park.

Plein-Air Painters of Canton in Heritage Park—Watching artists at work creates an inner sense of pride in the capabilities within all of us. Sharon approached the Canton’s Leisure Services in 2001 with the concept of “artists at work” during the live summer concerts in Heritage Park. Through local corporate sponsorships, artists are compensated for their time and while painting and interacting with attendees. The artists provide the perfect opportunity to promote the arts, and they have the chance to sell their art or receive commissions. Hosted by D & M Art Studio and Canton Leisure Services.

Pillar Painting Fundraiser—Part of Canton’s Relay for Life

Blank pillars and paints are supplied by D & M Art Studio. Local artists volunteer their time to paint master works of art on the four-sided pillars. The pillars are sponsored by local businesses, are available for purchase and those attending the event vote for their favorites, \$1 per vote.

Created and Hosted by D & M Art Studio.



Local artist Cathy Vettese paints pillar at Canton’s Relay For Life.



Canton’s annual “Chalk the Mall” - A fine art demonstration showcases the talents of nationally known chalk artists Erin Dillenbeck, Bethany Grysko, Sharon Dillenbeck, Kyla Suchy, Gregg Carr, Rachel Bissonnette, plus many students. Watch them produce master works such as Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh and more on the sidewalk around Golden Gate Shopping Center. Hosted and sponsored by D & M Art Studio.

Sharon’s daughter, Erin Dillenbeck, one of the many artists who create beautiful chalk art.

Canton Project Arts Council Board of Directors

Canton Fire Station Coloring Sheets

Oakwood Hospital Coloring Book

Canton Ghost Stories Illustrator

Plymouth Arts Council Board of Directors

Scholarships and Awards Contributor