

# the Art Cellar

## Norma Murphy

*“Happy is the child who has a talent for something and is encouraged by parents. My mother encouraged me at an early age to draw and paint. When I started school my teachers continued that encouragement in artistic direction, so painting became a strong element of expression in my life. Now I would encourage anyone interested in learning to paint; to draw, draw, draw. Then, if colors are available, explore generously the different associations of color. When building a composition on paper or canvas experiment with contrast. While in the process of painting, intuitions take over and one learns new skills of expression. These intuitions help an artist develop a style of their own. It is important not to stop, but to explore style in order to grow and not become boring. Over the years I have come to realize painting has given more to me than I have given to it. It has become an anchor in my life, has given me confidence, peace and joy. I have learned how to use line, form, space, color, and texture as my language of expression and have appreciated very much the encouragement I have received from family, friends and patrons over these many years of my painting journey.” - Norma Murphy*



Born in North Carolina’s rural Watauga County, Norma grew up playing outdoors in the woods and creeks, dreaming of ladies in flowering new dresses while paging through the Sears & Roebuck catalog. Her imagination and creativity were prompted by the mother of invention—necessity. She cut out figures and outfits from the catalogs and made up games and adventures outside. “I felt nurtured by the early solitude. It gave me time to think and to reach within myself and find what was there and do something with it,” she explains. Growing up in Appalachia “was a peaceful life,” continues Norma, “I am definitely a captive of my mountain background.” Peacefulness is reflected in her paintings which are filled with light and beauty.

Influences of historical works by master painters such as Renoir, Monet, Matisse and Picasso are evident in her work. These artists have inspired Norma’s unique impressionistic style both in subject matter and palette but the end result is positively her own.