



# Susan Mclean

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For many years I taught high school English, primarily Advanced Placement. Rather than wait for retirement, I decided that it was time for a change. I quit teaching and started pursuing art full-time. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

For the last few years I have devoted much of my time to drawing and painting. I studied art for nine years from internationally-trained artist Chris DiDomizio, who instructed me in the classical techniques of the Old Masters and in photography. I have also taken workshops from Armand Cabrera, a nationally-recognized Plein-air artist; from Hedi Moran, an artist and instructor who specializes in floral; and from watercolorists, including Dylan Scott Pierce.

I am a representational artist whose greatest challenge is settling on one subject to paint--my *oeuvre*. I gravitate toward nature, whether in landscapes, seascapes, or subjects such as birds, flowers, and dogs. I love color and the tactile feeling of putting the paint to canvas or paper. Although oils are my first love, I sometimes paint in pastels, acrylics, and watercolor. Often it is the subject that asks for the medium.

My works have been shown in the McDade Gallery, and currently some of my work is in Gallery 35 in Alpharetta. I have also had works in various shows in the Atlanta area and in Macon.

When I need a refresher on technique or the principles of art, I learn "the lazy way" by painting works by Sargent, Sorolla, and Zorn. They were masters of that strong, sure brushstroke and the use of color and contrast to establish mood. Those are some of my best "Zen moments."