

Danita Grant

(678) 994-5630

STUDIODANITA@ATT.NET

WWW.STUDIODANITA.COM



As a native Chicagoan I attribute many influences and opportunities that I have had due to living in the *Windy City* to spurring my interest and passion for all disciplines of the humanities. Piano studies filled my childhood with learning music theory, recitals, and introduction to the great classical composers. But even earlier than these school age years, I fondly remember listening to my father's treasured collection of 78 rpm records filling our home with opera and the powerful operatic voices of that period. Visits to

the prestigious *Chicago Art Museum* occupied many hours of my youth as I marveled at the artistic genius on display. During my teens, I was drawn to the wonder of the Shubert Theater. Since I came from a large family of modest means, I would usher at the Shubert for free admittance to the shows. These were some of my happiest times during my youth! In 1974 I moved to Marietta, Georgia with my husband and children. The next 20 plus years were filled with family and career. This was a very busy, hectic time in my life. I seldom sought for opportunities to be creative since more pressing practical matters took precedence. However, around 50, I decided it was time to plan for *my future*. I knew that within a short period of time, my life was going to take a dramatic change. The children would be gone from home, and time was mine! I mused about trying something different, a new bold direction. I wanted a challenge doing something I had never done. Scary but also exciting! I began to muse about becoming an artist. The big question was how to begin? I looked within the local community of resources and opportunities to study art. To my good fortune, I met Coe Steinwart, illustrator of *The Elf on the Shelf*. She welcomed me into her watercolor class and I was off and running....but stumbling, too.

Other extremely talented art teachers have helped me with my studies, all of whom I am most grateful to know. Karen Bradshaw, a marvelous artist whose watercolor classes are filled with joy, professional growth and camaraderie, helped me to continue my studies within this media. I also have had an opportunity to study at Old World Art studio under the tutelage of Chris di Domizio. This education was a serious focus on the works and techniques of the old masters, especially that of John Singer Sargent. Nikki Davidson, whose work have been featured at the *Booth Museum, Cobb Museum* and other prestigious institutions was most influential in my later years. She inspired me with an appreciation of subtle art stokes and color change. Most recently, I have studied portrait painting with Ernest Verner. His encouraging words, expertise and enthusiasm make hours fly by as I work in his class.

My work has been shown at *Lydia Art Gallery, Strawberry Fields and Monfort's Art Gallery* in Alpharetta, Georgia. I have been shown in a number of Georgia juried shows. I am a board member of the Alpha Arts Guild, a member the Roswell Fine Arts Association, as well as the Booth Artist Guild.