

# Artist Statement

I have been making art since I can remember. I recall sitting at the kitchen table with my mom and siblings, cutting out construction paper shapes using flour and water as glue. Eventually I graduated to coloring books and Crayolas.

We moved a lot when I was growing up. By the time I graduated from high school I had attended nine different schools. Each move was disruptive and difficult to adjust to, but the one common thread that grounded me throughout those changes was the art room! There I could express myself with color, shapes, paint and clay. It was my experiences in the art room that gave me the freedom from stress and anxiety I faced in my young life.

I currently live in a small cottage, two miles from the Wisconsin River in Spring Green, Wisconsin. By most people's standards I'm not a wealthy person. However, by my own standards, I have the sunrise in the morning, the moonrise at night and the most spectacular sunsets I've ever seen in between. I'm wealthy beyond all else that matters in my life with the beauty of nature all around me.

Subjects for painting or drawing come to me from many sources. Wisconsin landscapes, rivers, old barns and houses, animals, rocks found along Lake Superior, vignettes of someone's life have all been sources of inspiration.

To me, there is nothing more exciting than new art materials and a blank canvas. Some nights I lie awake thinking about a composition I want to bring together or the subject for my next Prismacolor drawing. I can't wait for the morning light so I can put brush to canvas or pencil to paper. My life has become art and art has become my life.

Jen Salt