



Michelle Gladish

Michelle Marie Ramsey was born in Vallejo, California. She moved to Iowa and lived on a farm until age seven where she fell in love with animals. "My grandmother taught me many things about country life. I am one of the few people of my age group who actually attended a one room country school. I remember the big stove in the center of the room and how each row was a different grade level. We would walk over a mile down the country road and hang our jackets in the front vestibule on hooks. The rest rooms were outside and yes they did have a half-moon on the doors. A large bell in the steeple would call us to class. We played marbles, tag and jump rope during recess. We did get into lots of minor trouble being farm kids. A lot of the memories of the farm days show up in my paintings with many rich images of my past."

"My mother always encouraged me to draw and paint. I was never without my box of crayons and a stack of paper. As I grew up my some of my teachers took notice of my drawings and paintings, and they hung them up on the bulletin boards for others to see. I took a few art classes in grade school and when I graduated from high school, I decided to go to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago."



Michelle, whose genetic roots go clear back to Charlemagne and beyond is fascinated with Victorian and Edwardian period clothing, with all the rich textures and lace. "It is exciting to take a painting medium and achieve a look of depth." Working mainly as a studio painter, Michelle paints every day and sometimes well into the night. She also likes working outdoors when the weather permits. "All things in nature truly inspire me. People and animals are my favorite subjects. I love to paint anything with fur or texture."

After entering numerous art fairs, and receiving many favorable inquiries about her work, Michelle decided to teach private art classes, and has taught at workshops in several states including, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, and has also made three teaching videos for TV. Michelle loves to see her students who grow with their art and has taught many who are now earning their living as professional artists. "I feel very good when I see what my students can achieve with art," states Michelle.

For more editorial information about this artist, please contact the artist directly:

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Image Tiff files provided:

A Few of my Friends
As Life Begins 25x33" Oil
Looking for Paradise

Michelle presently lives in Munster, Indiana, which is about 30 minutes outside of Chicago. "Here in Indiana, we have so many areas of beauty, the Lake-shore (Lake Michigan) and the fantastic Indiana Dunes. We have a stunning array of colors in the autumn from our large assortment of trees. I spend a lot of time with my camera as my friends and I ride our horses for hours on the trails and enjoy the Indiana fall colors. In the winter we are often inundated with lake-effect snow. It is beautiful to photograph and a wonderful subject to paint."

Michelle's travel experiences have also spurred on her creative energy. "I truly love the West, where I went trail riding and that has inspired many wonderful paintings. Recently my riding friends and I found a new born fawn and took pictures of him as he lay quietly before us. Those pictures were the foundation of a new painting called, As Life Begins."

Michelle has been selling her art at her own gallery, Gladco Arts Gallery since 1976, which also does custom framing and sells art supplies. Her husband runs their business while she teaches, paints commissioned portraits and her other art. She is also showing at the Gallery One, Masters in Miniature Invitational Show for the seventh year in a row. She won best of show at the Wabash Valley Watercolor Society Show and she has won numerous awards in many national and international juried shows.

Besides her busy painting schedule she belongs to the following professional organizations: (SCBWI) The Society of Children's Book Writer's and Illustrators, (WAOW) Women Artists of the West and also Nature Artists International.

"Being an artist is a wonderful thing, says Michelle. You can give the world an image that only you can create and then freely share that creation with others."

www.waow.org

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