



*Presents:*

**MELEESE SEIGLER- Woodworking and Mixed Medium**

My mother was accomplished in oil painting. She made beautiful dolls. She planted and sculpted glorious gardens with amazing and colorful vistas. I was in awe of her talent and energy for art. Sometimes I would "dabble" with her and I loved it. She encouraged me to take part in her wonderful, skillful, colorful world. Often I'd sit and draw with her. Today I love to do pen and ink art work, often combined with watercolor.

While engaged in full time teaching, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I'd dream of the time when I'd have more free hours to pursue my secret dream, that of spending my time making things; in essence, doing art. I taught middle school science, both biology and physical science. I truly believe that learning in science required hands on, project-based class involvement. So much of conveying science education to youngsters requires forms of art and vivid descriptive objects. That allowed me to combine my interest in art with my daily demands in my teaching. My students were guided to a full understanding of the subject of the day by producing objects through which they learned as well as documenting their new knowledge in drawings and paintings and building physical replicas to support the subject matter. I got to play along with them. That helped satisfy my yearning for art.

Upon retirement I intensified my pursuit of working with my hands and being creative in art. I began working with wood in creating an abundance of utilitarian and artistic objects for display, for use or to be given as gifts. I've enjoyed learning about and working in watercolor. I'm enjoying some projects that required new designs and having the ideas and vision come forth.

I get up every day feeling the joy of "this day in pursuit of art" and end each day in the afterglow of the wonders that that holds for me. I have channeled my mother's love of and talent for art and now know the wonders that may come along with that. I can't wait for each new day, form of art or new idea.