**Kathryn Holzheimer**

**Acrylic Painter**

[www.holzheimerarts.com](http://www.holzheimerarts.com)

**Questions asked and Answers**:

**How long have you been painting?**

Drawing and painting have been a passion since I was a little child and growing up in a family business of interior designers gave me the ability to use one’s eyes. The summers during the teenage years was working in the family business updating fabrics and wallcoverings so I was surrounded with patterns, textures, and color combinations.

I went to a small college in the Cleveland area (Ursuline College) and majored in Fine Arts with the specialty of painting and enameling. But once I was out of college, the two dimensional view became a three dimensional trade in following the family business. So for thirty five years I took the business to the next generation and worked on many design projects both commercial and residential. Many projects took me to countries of Japan, Saudia Arabia, and the Caribbeans as well as nationally. It was an extremely successful career and now my daughter is the fifth generation to continue the business

Three years ago, I retired from the day to day operations to once again go back to the two dimensional artwork and Wow, am I excited! Acrylics have always been my media of choice as well the viewing from nature simple pleasures. Most ideas come from imagination not pictures or photographs.

**What inspires you?**

Nature: Pure and Simple. I try to take out the all the complicated “Jungle” and bring the viewing to a very simple and miniscule form. I have always been awed by landscape’s horizontal line where earth meets sky and how they interact with each other. Purity of color and texture then let’s me set the tone for the viewer. I hope to paint the spirit within the landscape so that the viewer can reacts with an inner reflected mood or emotion from within. Hopefully it is peaceful like a gentle breath of fresh air, windy moving skies, or quiet contemplation. The whimsical is to make you smile and feel life’s charm’s connect to the viewers’ imagination or interpretation.

**What techniques do you use to create your paintings?**

Part of the creativity that is in these contemporary impressionistic paintings is the process of little or no use of paint brushes. The textures created are from finding tools walking through the yard or through the kitchen which give unusual textures.

Many of the art pieces are made with the use of sponges, sticks, dried plants, coffee, herbs, saran wrap, bubble wrap, natural stencils, scrappers, and spatulas**.**

Applied layers of acrylics are put onto the canvas or paper so that materials can be scraped away to see below. The sponge techniques give an aura of blending and harmonizing the tones together, weaving the values in and out of the painting. Some pieces have acrylic inks added into the acrylic paints to use as a drip method onto the canvas (see people art pieces). All art pieces takes days, weeks, or months to produce, depending on the quantity of layers and continuous alterations to get the perfect effect.