

## Amy Nielsen Bio

Amy Nielsen, a native of the Quad Cities, creates works from a variety of media. She mixes the qualities of gold leaf embellishments with watercolor, traditional pen and ink, and calligraphic brushes to produce unique works having a distinct signature. Amy started her career with Hallmark Cards and has used that experience to incorporate tight illustrations with precise calligraphy and a sense of natural illumination. Her use of color is, at the same time, vivid and subtle. She literally splashes color to accent her graphic messages.

Amy is inspired by nature and by the words used by all of us as we express our feelings and our frustrations. She reinterprets quotations into visual expressions using her love for nature and for words to express yet another world.

She explains, "I see a quotation and imagine how I could design and depict it in a visual form to add impact to the spoken message." Her students and collectors often associate the artistic design with the written message to relate to something special that marked their lives.

Amy is well established in the art world beginning with the University of Iowa, then to St. Ambrose where she studied under Fr. E.M. Catich. She worked for Hallmark Cards, then led artistic efforts for Crown Advertising, The Quad City Times and Plus 60 Magazine. She was one of the first computer graphics artists as the Creative Director for Video Times.

Current Art Instruction includes: Art Instructor for The Art Legacy League Davenport IA, invited instructor at the FIGGE Art Museum and Clinton IA River Arts Center, as well as Bettendorf IA Library and the Moline, IL Library, Blackhawk College Continuing Education and Instructor for Blackhawk College Summer Program College for Kids.

She has been a featured artist at the Catich Gallery, Morrissey Gallery, Galvin Fine Arts SAU, Eldridge Library, FIGGE Art Salon, FIGGE Art Instructor Show, Left Bank Art League, Maquoketa Art Experience, Clinton River Arts Center and The Davenport Outing Club and Country Club, Moline Library, Bettendorf Library and Rock Island Library, Cordova Library, First Congregational Church Son Cafe. She is an active member of The Arts Collective, Founding BOD and Core Instructor Art Legacy League (ALL) and contributor to Quad City Arts, Festival of Trees, and the Norma Leah Ovarian Cancer Bodice Project.