

Artist's Statement
Karen Cusumano Miller

Art is a strong force ... a passion that drives me to create.

As an artist I become excited by thoughts, emotions and ideas. Shapes, sounds, color, people, music and events flash through my mind and instantly become the object of my attention.

My studio ... the blank canvases, my old beat-up easel, the jars of brushes, tubes of paints and found objects add to my excitement and seem to become an extension of my hands.

When I begin to create the adrenaline rush drives me forward. Things complex, simple, funny, deep and unknown often surface. Then somehow during this creative process, the artwork seems to come into existence on its own. Art is my life's work, my purpose. It is an intense addiction that awakens my senses and allows me to rise above the norm ... to remove all else from my life ... and to hopefully communicate with the viewer.

Professional Resume - Oct. 2017
Karen Cusumano Miller

Karen Cusumano Miller has enjoyed a life-long career in the arts. She is listed with The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art - AFI File , the Spencer Art Reference Library and in worldcat.org as an American Artist.

She also was one of ten Kansas City Artists commissioned by the city to create a piece for the 2015 Art of Data Competition. Karen is a formally and privately educated artist and received a BA in Studio Arts from Avila College.

As a beginning college student Karen (Morgan) Cusumano Miller entered William Jewell College and spent a semester under locally-famous Kansas-City water-colorist, the late Rod Cofran, who encouraged her to pursue a fine-arts education.

She immediately transferred to the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI), where she majored in Painting and Sculpture under artists of renown including nationally and internationally known Wilbur Neiwald, Former Dean of KCAI's Painting Department and Professor Emeritus, and the late Dale Eldred, Former Chair of KCAI's Sculpture Department for over 33 years.

Karen was intrigued with Eldred's teaching methods and techniques and enjoyed creating sculpture on a grand scale. As a daughter of a foundry owner, she produced works that answered the demands of Eldred's unprecedented style of teaching. She was one of few women who studied under his direction and was honored to be the first freshman sculpture student and first woman to be allowed to exhibit on the KCAI campus.

In addition, she participated in a short-term study course under world-famous American Regionalist artist, the late Thomas Hart Benton, while he was painting the "Independence and Opening of the West" mural at the Truman Library in Independence MO.

After college, Cusumano Miller pursued and enjoyed a successful career in the corporate advertising arts. Positions held included Advertising Artist, Chief Copywriter and Direct Marketing Manager for well-known Kansas City based corporations including Halls/Swanson's specialty fashion division of Hallmark, Sam's Town Casino, Carstar, Krigel Jewelers, Peavey Corporation, and Sutherland Lumber.

Her advertising/marketing career resulted in over 39 local and national awards won directly for her work in the retail advertising industry.

Mid-career Karen returned to college to expand her graphic art abilities plus continued to study and develop her fine art skills. As a result she has exhibited her fine art works for show and sale at many Kansas City area locations as well as in and around Chicago. (List following).

In 1997 Cusumano Miller opened her own fine arts business, The Artist's Touch. Home portraits for realtors and builders, fine-art elevations and perspective drawings of builder developments for city presentations were her focus. Past clients include many well-known Kansas City builders, developers, and architects. She has also been commissioned to create over 250 home portraits for realtors and private individuals. Her fine art and custom-created works for the building industry have hung and/or still hang throughout architectural firms, realty offices and in many model homes in the greater Kansas City Metropolitan area.

Karen currently enjoys working solely as a fine-artist out of her home studio and now has the opportunity to devote most of her time to create and offer her art for exhibition and sale. She is a member of area fine-art organizations and presently shows and sells her works in and around Kansas City through galleries and retail concerns. Since 2007 she has been an artist member of the Now Showing Program of ARTSKC and often shows her art in the ARTSKC business-member corporate offices.

Past and Recent Exhibits/Showings:

ProPharma Corporate Offices
Haas & Wilkerson Corporate Offices
Code Koalas KC Location
Blue Valley Bank
Mersoft Corporate Offices
Summit Art Festival
Brightergy Corporate Offices
Michael Smith's Gallery
19-Under Gallery
The Artists' Coalition Annual Auction
Digital Evolution Group at Corporate Woods
Mid-America Arts Alliance - KC Crossroads
ten at bnim - a storefront for art - KCP&L District
McCown Gordon Construction Now Showing Gallery
Gallerythreehundred at HOK Sports Venue - River Market
JP's Coffee House Offices
Deloitte & Touche Now Showing Gallery - KC MO
TK Architects
The Gallery - Leawood, KS
Blue Valley Arts - Stillwell, KS
Parkville Fine Arts Gallery - Parkville, MO
Thornhill Art Gallery - Kansas City MO
Third Annual "Woman Vision" Show - KC MO
Rensing Driftwood Galleries - Kansas City MO
Palit Restaurant & Gallery - Lenexa, KS
Veco's Restaurant and Gallery - Kansas City MO
Charlie Charlie's Restaurant & Gallery-Kansas City MO

Kansas City Homes Development Office
Woodland Reserve Residential Development Office
Deer Creek Residential Development Office
The Village of Deer Creek Model Homes Realty Office
HeatherWood Residential Model Homes Realty Office
HeatherGlen Residential Model Homes Realty Office
Cedar Creek Marketing & Administrative Offices
Falcon Ridge Residential Development