



Meet the Artist, Mary Lou Peters

Mary Lou Peters lives and paints in beautiful northern Michigan. The location of her home near the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula provides near-by access to her favorite place to paint Mackinac Island. Right outside her windows, she's surrounded by flower gardens lovingly tended by her husband, Tom. The ever-changing gifts presented by the garden provide inspiration for many of her paintings.

She prefers to paint in plain air whenever she can, but living in northern Michigan presents a set of circumstances making that impractical for at least half the year. At those times, she paints in her tiny studio using photos while dreaming of the beautiful warm days ahead when she can again take to the outdoors.

Her goal when painting is always to capture the fun nature of the North Country. She has developed her own distinctive style—a whimsical approach to common themes.

She claims the best of all worlds is being crazy busy in summer, then having the winter to reflect, plan, travel and work at her leisure on paintings for the next summer season.

When traveling, Mary Lou takes along a sketchbook journal to document the places she's been. She's filled eight journals with vignettes of her travels—quick sketches done with a limited palette and specially modified brushes she

carries in a handy, small shoulder bag.

Mary Lou loves being an artist. Her favorite painting experiences are when she's just free to have fun and play around with the paint. She hopes that her paintings leave viewers feeling happy and wishing they were in the places she has painted.

Every time I approach a fresh piece of paper I get excited," she says. "How will I treat the subject? What will I learn from this project? Watercolor is a medium that is never boring. It's a joy to watch watercolor paint do its own thing on the paper, sometimes producing amazing results."

Mary Lou is a member of the Michigan Watercolor Society. Her work is in collections throughout the United States and new works may be viewed at Lilacs and Lace and Victorian Summer Gallery on Mackinac Island.

Mary Lou's Web site is full of information and items to purchase. Mary Lou has been coming to the Bohemian gatherings for years and is a pleasure to talk with.

The Bohemians are a group of artists that gather to have dinner and talk about art. When artists gather, the atmosphere is alive with energy and ideas. Another group that exhibits together is Artists of the Straits. Call Ann to be added to the list to contact at 231-627-2121.

Art happens. All you have to do is show up.

— Ann Gildner is an artist and director of the Gildner Gallery.



Ann Gildner



Top photo: A view from the Grand Hotel porch on Mackinac Island, as painted by artist Mary Lou Peters. Above: A photo of Peters. Below: Another of Mary Lou Peters' paintings, this one featuring the Mackinac Bridge. Courtesy photos.

