

THE LITTLE ART GALLERY  
of the North Canton Public Library  
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**“Something Besides the Form, Something Beyond the Sound: Paintings by Doreen St. John”**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NORTH CANTON, Ohio, October 23, 2021** – The Little Art Gallery of the North Canton Public Library will host “Something Besides the Form, Something Beyond the Sound: Paintings by Doreen St. John” beginning November 4, 2021. The exhibit will be displayed through January 9, 2022. An opening reception, hosted by the Friends of the Little Art Gallery, will be held Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres will be served.

**Artist’s Statement**

I have a compelling need to express what I see and feel through art and can remember feeling this way since I was a very small child. When I am creating, time stands still and I am ‘in the moment’. It’s really the only time when I truly feel I can be my authentic self. Being in nature, seeing the beauty and awe of the natural world, is exhilarating. My paintings often chronicle my response to those experiences. Over time, my style has evolved from being more abstract toward being more realistic, from painting only landscapes in watercolor to exploring other media and subject matter, but I always strive to express feeling/emotion and not just record facts. As I’ve matured in years I have worked hard to improve and, hopefully, this enables me to be even more authentic and expressive. Whether it’s a fleeting sunset, a pensive expression, light on a still life, or the movement of a stream, my work is an attempt to communicate...to pull the viewer along with me and into the work. I have chosen works for this show that, hopefully, demonstrate this. In the words of Li Po, an 8th century Chinese philosopher...

“I would not paint a face, a rock, nor brooks, nor trees,  
Mere Semblances of things, but something more than these.  
That art is best which to the soul’s range gives no bound...  
Something besides the form, Something beyond the sound.”

**Artist Bio**

Doreen St. John’s paintings demonstrate her love of the natural environment. “I’m inspired by the way light and color influence what we see and feel...not only in the landscape, but also in the human form. My work is really about relationship in the deepest sense of the word - relationships between shapes, light/shadow, and between the viewer and the artist, scene, or subject. My hope is that my work engages, evoking an emotional response or memory in the viewer, allowing my feelings to come through in the work.”

Born and raised in the art center and resort town of Saugatuck, Michigan, Doreen St. John exhibited artistic ability even as a small child, receiving art instruction from Cora Bliss Taylor, a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute and a well-known local artist. Although St. John pursued undergrad and graduate degrees in education, the need to create was always a driving force. She took her first watercolor classes at the Canton Art Museum in 1980 and later studied under watercolorist Bette G. Elliott of North Canton, Ohio, for five years. She has taken workshops with nationally recognized artists including Edgar Whitney, Frank Webb, Neil Patterson, Alan Wylie, Frederick Graff, Marilyn Hughey Phillis, Stan Miller, Marc Hanson, David Jon Kassan, Casey Childs, and others. She continues to study to improve her work, believing that growth as an artist is a lifelong pursuit, working from life as much as possible, including portrait, figure, plein air, and studio work.

St. John has gained national recognition in major juried competitive exhibitions and has been awarded Signature status with the Oil Painters of America, the Pastel Society of America, and the American Impressionist Society. She is represented by the Eisele Gallery of Fine Art in Cincinnati, OH, Castle Gallery Fine Art in Fort Wayne, IN, and Hudson Fine Art & Framing in Hudson, OH.

For additional information, please contact library community relations manager, Christina Weyrick, at 330.499.4712 x331 or cweyrick@northcantonlibrary.org.