

This week's spotlight member is truly a jack of all trades. Not only has she excelled in a multitude of interesting and socially conscious positions before her retirement but she has also played an important part in the development of the LAA's electronic achievements serving on our board as well as chairing several aspects of our association. In addition, she is an accomplished artist dabbling in various mediums, usually all at the same time! We are pleased to have you meet our Technology Specialist, Marie Tomlinson.

MARIE TOMLINSON



Marie was born and raised on Long Island, New York, and, after graduating from UCONN, returned to Long Island to live and work. She taught middle school and high school French (and some classes in English, Spanish and ESL) in a Suffolk County school district, and went on to become a Foreign Language Chairperson and eventually an Assistant Superintendent of Schools, where she oversaw all K-12 curriculum, instruction and staff development. She retired on February 16, 2010, and was in the Landings with her husband, Ken, and a moving truck 2 days later!

Marie always loved to draw and to create, so it is no coincidence that she always seemed to have part-time jobs that involved some sort of design and/or creative element. Throughout the years, she worked as a club D.J., a wedding and special events videographer and video editor, a maker and seller of semi-precious stone jewelry, and an educational website designer. She was also lucky enough to perform her full-time job in a school district that promoted technology, and found herself surrounded by an informational technology department that nurtured her love of computers and graphic design.

After living in the Landings for a few years, taking numerous art workshops and classes, and eventually accepting commissions for family and friends (where commissions = gifts!), she was “nudged” by her former N.Y. partner-in-crime and accomplished artist, Penny Thompson, to join the LAA. Although she was mostly creating paper art collages at the time, she soon began working almost exclusively in alcohol ink because of its vibrant colors and fluid appearance as well as the “control” challenge it presented. Her alcohol ink paintings often represent a bit of reality mixed with a lot of whimsy, and require the skill of knowing when to guide the inks and when to let them flow as they will.

Although alcohol ink is her first love, Marie finds that working in different genres, on various materials, provides continual inspiration and personal growth. Since it is difficult to transport inks and all of the equipment needed to use them, she spends her summers on Long Island exploring and taking classes in other art forms, including paper collage, colored pencils and, most recently, pastels. Pastels especially provide that rich color that originally attracted her to alcohol ink.



Since joining the LAA, Marie has received two 1st Place ribbons for both of her Spring Show entries, and has enjoyed the company of many talented artists. She is currently the LAA

Plantation/Sound View Gallery Coordinator and has recently resurrected the LAA website (landingsartassociation.com), serving as the site's current Webmaster. Her future plans include teaching artists to create and publish basic websites to organize and showcase their work... so stay tuned!

To see Marie's gallery or to contact her, visit her website at marietomlinsonart.com or email her at inkstresse@gmail.com.