



TENNESSEE ARTIST

Susan Connelly McClelland

(b. 1960)

The artist's own words about her life and art make the ideal opening for this article: "I was almost a geologist. When I started at East Carolina University in 1979, I had to make a decision . . . whether to major in something practical where I could make a good living or risk poverty and study the one thing I knew I had a talent and passion for. My heart won out, and I have been a professional artist for over thirty years now. After spending all those years being creative for other people as a professional faux painter, I finally got the chance in 2013 to create art on my own terms." At that turn in her life, McClelland built In Color Studio and switched to art full time, but her love of geology and natural things remained in her heart. "My work is a reflection of all my experiences—the discipline of interior design, techniques of faux painting, and love of the outdoors and geology." She enjoys collecting gems and minerals and observing their details under a magnifying glass, where she can view the "landscapes, layers, and colors of each stone." She says: "I then use mixed media or encaustic (using pigments mixed with hot beeswax that is painted and sculpted onto the art support, such as canvas, wood panel, and so on)

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to portray the beautiful compositions that make each stone unique and continue to draw me in."

McClelland earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1982 from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. She has worked as a showroom designer at the High Point Furniture Market, High Point, North Carolina. This is the largest home furnishing trade show in the world, covering 10 million square feet! Also, during the past twenty-six years McClelland has worked as a professional faux artist, completing a myriad of both residential and commercial projects. She recently chose to leave that genre and do fine art originals in an abstract style. McClelland enjoys using mixed

Susan Robinson is a freelance artist specializing in painting mineral and gem specimens as well as birds and wildlife.