



Visions of Grace

A display of landscapes and a journey of faith

Exhibition on View

September 9, 2021, through October 31, 2021





Crystal Holman, Artist and Retired Art Educator, received her Bachelor of Arts Degree, with a major in Art and a minor in Journalism from Georgia Southern College in 1983. In 1997, Holman completed a T-4 Certification for P-12 Art Education from Georgia Southern University.

Holman retired from a 23-year career in Art Education with the Bulloch County Board of Education to pursue her artistic endeavors.

Holman currently works in a variety of media using her creative journey to embrace art as a means of healing and spiritual growth to overcome traumatic life events. She also enjoys sharing her talents with others through demonstrations, small-group instruction, and private art lessons.

Her artwork has been exhibited locally at the Averitt Center for the Arts and is held in private collections throughout the Southeastern United States.

Holman resides in Statesboro, Georgia, with her husband, Lynn.

ON THE FRONT COVER:

“Gateway to Heaven” is a scene captured in my memory, and years later the scene has changed, but the invitation to walk through the opening in the fence has always intrigued me. So, I began to paint the scene while trying to capture the beauty and the intrigue of the scene. The invitation to walk into the unknown while at the same time feeling comfortable and confident. I thought “Gateway to Heaven” would make the exhibit “Visions of Grace” complete.



McCracken's Duck Hole

24"X48"

July 2021

"McCracken's Duck Hole" - This little duck hole had me intrigued, when I first saw it, because the scene was rich with color and the sunlight pierced through the trees to awaken the quiet little duck hole. As I painted the scene, I could sense the sounds and sensations of the scene that had intrigued me so much. It was wonderful to experience the visual journey that calmed my heart and spirit with each stroke of the paint brush. I am so blessed that my paintings offer me an emotional escape, and I hope to share this blessing with others.



Leaning, but not Fallen

18"X24"

February 2021

"Leaning, but not Fallen"

This is a beautiful scene that visually captured the feeling of my emotional health. Life is full of ups and downs; but it is the hope of standing tall, no matter the situation, that keeps me going. I find strength in nature as I look at the beautiful sunlight or listen to the many sounds. There are many days that I feel like the tree that is leaning, but I can see the joy and appreciate the moment; and I know that my foundation is secure, and my hope will be filled.

Artist's Creed

I believe my talents are a gift from God
and I am to use them to fulfill His purposes
in my life and in His world.

I humbly and respectfully acknowledge
and accept my gifts
as I ask to receive God's vision
for how I am to use them.

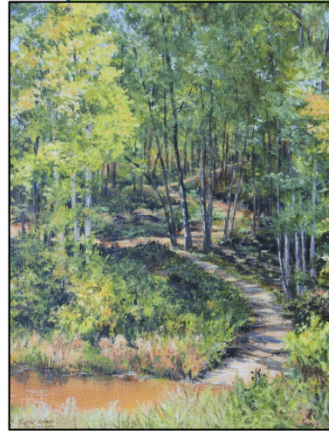
I ask the Holy Spirit to free me
from self-doubt and to be a guide
of the creative gift within me.

I pray this work will bring me
into closer alignment
with God's plan for me
as I seek to bring my gifts and talents
into His light and to become
the whole and complete person
He intends me to be.

Amen

This is my artist creed. These are words that prepare my heart for a creative experience. Many times, when I try to face the canvas on my own; I must stop and revisit my purpose and acknowledge my creative gifts. When my spirit is focused, the painting will flow with Grace.

“Finding Hope” – The water in the pond was muddy, but the sunlight shone on the water and led your eye to a path on the other side of the pond. On the other side was a path that sparkled with sunlight as the path traveled through the woods and up the hill. The scene was visually peaceful and invited me to stop and relax and gave me a sense of hope. The muddy water is like a metaphor of life: sometimes our direction in life takes us through some tough times, and we may not have a clear vision of our circumstances.



Finding Hope
14”X18”
June 2020

Our journey in life requires us to put forth much effort, but the results are a feeling of accomplishment and peace. So, where is hope in the painting? Hope is everywhere. Even in the muddy water and in the tangled vines and plants. Hope is protecting us when we trip and fall. Hope is in the sunlight that sparkles along the way and guides our journey. Hope is our encouragement to keep our focus on our journey and to enjoy the blessings of life. Hope is at the top of the hill and beyond.



Breath of Tranquility
12”X24”
May 2020

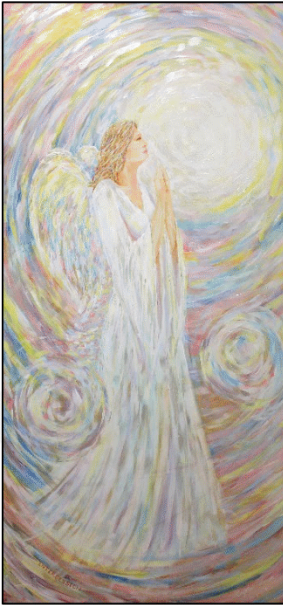
“Breath of Tranquility” - The quietness of the water and the peaceful reflections made this scene very intriguing for me. Even as I painted, the sunlight guided my eyes and my brush. It was as if the magic of the landscape came into being with each brush stroke. “Breath of Tranquility” is the second painting of this scene that captivated my attention and helped me to feel the tranquility that fills your soul with peace.



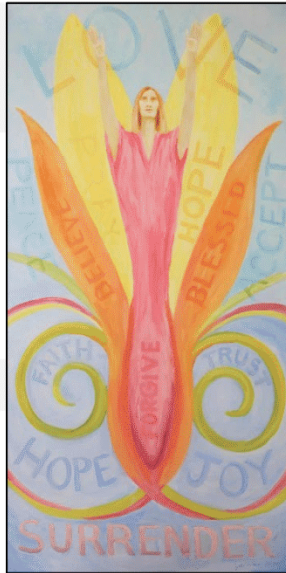
Grief



Tears of Grief



Intercession



Surrender

During a very difficult time in my life, my art took a turn away from landscapes into an art that was expressive and allowed me to put my pain in my art. Art helped me through a dark time in my life, and as my spirit healed, my art revealed the change and once again my art revealed the Grace that heals and the Love that gives Hope.

My Mission Statement:

*To find Joy and Peace
in all circumstances.*

Art teaches me about life, and the process of creating art helps me to transfer my creative problem-solving skills into life's issues and trials. Art helps me to embrace life's blessings!

I find comfort in phrases and words that remind me of my purpose and help me to see life's situations as part of the journey to an eternity of joy.

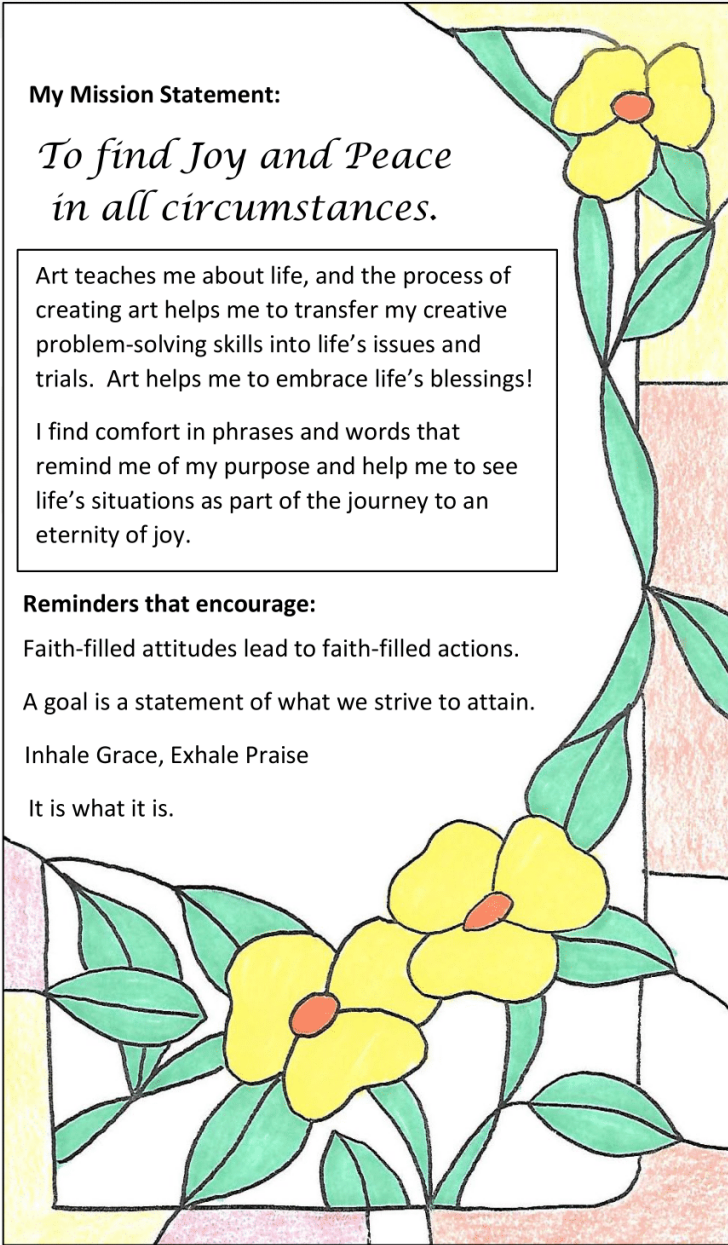
Reminders that encourage:

Faith-filled attitudes lead to faith-filled actions.

A goal is a statement of what we strive to attain.

Inhale Grace, Exhale Praise

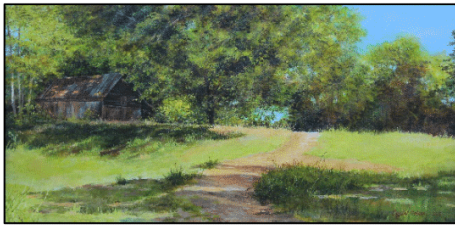
It is what it is.





Peaceful Stream 24"X30"
July 2018

"Peaceful Stream" - The inspiration for this painting came from an old, faded photograph and happy memories of wading in the mountain stream. My goal was to paint the quiet tranquility of the scene as I remembered it from my childhood. I hope that viewers will stop and feel as if they are standing within the scene and admiring the beauty of nature.



Hidden Barn 12" x 24" January 2018

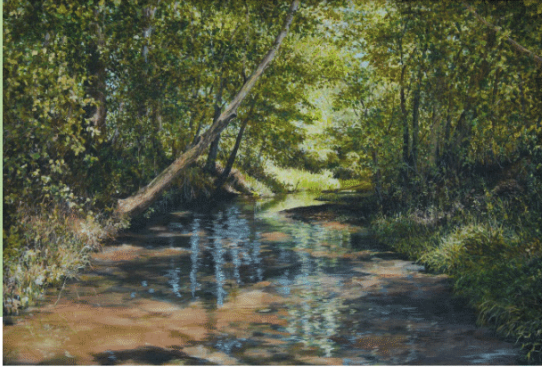
"Hidden Barn" - I found this barn one day while I was walking; and it captured my attention. I wondered how many people had passed by this barn without noticing it. I composed the painting so that the viewer might have the same experience of discovering the barn.

"Around the Bend"

When I came upon this scene, the sunlight was filtered by clouds and that drew my attention to the reflections in the water. As I stood and looked, my eyes traveled down the river and around the bend before I even took a step.

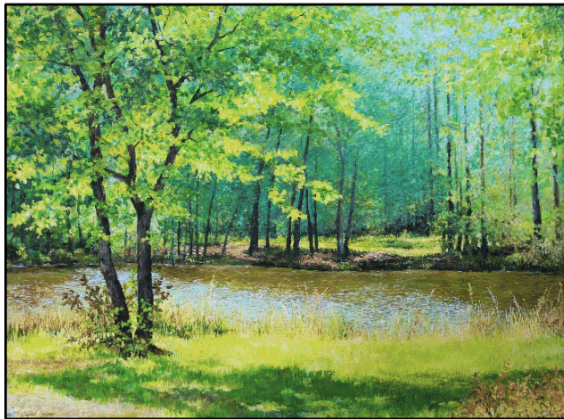


Around the Bend
10" x 10"
2018



Quiet Sunlight 22" X 28" June 2017

"Quiet Sunlight" - While walking one day, I was inspired by the beautiful sunlight that was shimmering through the trees and guiding my eyes to a quiet peaceful place. As I stood in the cool water, I stopped and enjoyed the beautiful scene. However, after standing for a few moments and admiring the beautiful sunlight, I realized I was standing in a drainage ditch. I remember having a little chuckle; but I knew I wanted to capture the joy of the sunlight in a painting.



**Sunlight at
Taylor Farm**

30"X 40"
July 2016

"Sunlight at Taylor Farm" is a beautiful scene at Taylor Farm in Screven County. The sunlight was amazing as it guided your eye from one place to another; and it was my desire to capture the sunlight and allow the viewers' eyes to wander and relax in the sunlit scene.



Mountain with Snow

8 7/8"X12"

May 2009

"Mountain with Snow" – The beauty of nature with a blanket of snow. This was a new experience painting outside, and painting while standing in the snow.



Mountain Stream 8"X12" June 2009

"Mountain Stream" – The quiet and stillness of nature.



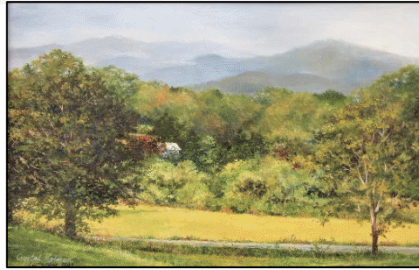
Morning Sunshine

9X12

July 2009

"Morning Sunshine" – The sunshine greets the scene with boldness as the new day begins. Morning sunshine allows the viewer to contemplate the day with peaceful observation.

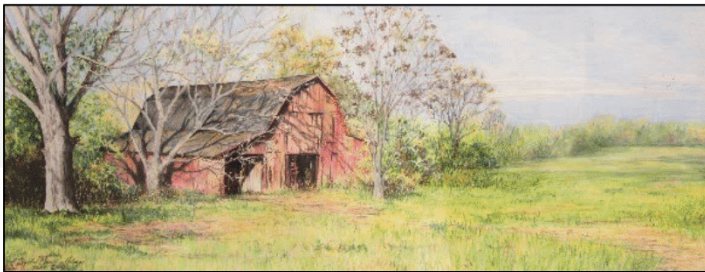
“Hidden in the Hills” - With a quick glance, you might miss the roof of the little house on the hill. This painting is a reminder to look for the many details that await us in nature and in our surroundings.



Hidden in the Hills

8X12

September 2009



Weathering the Seasons

9”X23½”

June 2008

“Weathering the Seasons” – Drawing of a local barn that has stood the test of time and seasons.



Learning to live and heal in the present was an important part of finding hope and leaning on the Grace that would help me to journey through life’s experiences. One of my favorite reminders is:

Mindfulness is being present with

Clarity

Wisdom

And Kindness



Joyfully Onward

10"X10"

2016

"Joyfully Onward" The sunlight illuminates the path taking the viewer to an unknown destination. The scene reminds me of the old hymn, "Joyfully Onward". As you look at the picture, it is as if you can hear the words from the hymn, "Joyfully, joyfully, we will go home. Bright will the morn of eternity dawn."

"Coming Home" – This is the scene as we travel along the driveway to the house. Even after a very rough day, the winding road has a way of releasing tension and focusing your attention on the positive attributes of nature and of life.



Coming Home

16"X20"

May 2014



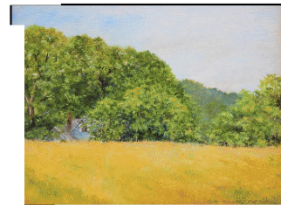
Barn

7½"X11"

June 2010

"Barn" – A simple painting suggesting the feelings of quiet and calm; but encouraging the viewer to seek what is beyond the ridge.

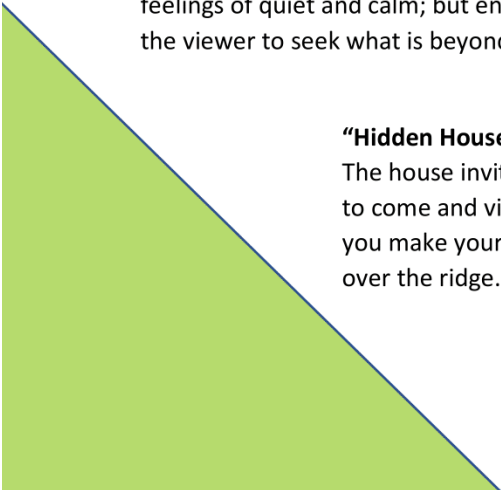
"Hidden House" – The house invites you to come and visit as you make your way over the ridge.



Hidden House

9X12

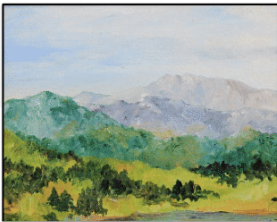
June 2009





Road to the Barn 16 ½"X19" February 2008

"Road to the Barn" – This drawing is a testament of the desire to draw. After a horse-riding accident that left me with a broken back and other injuries, every minute was excruciating pain. I was limited to what I could do, so my husband, Lynn, built me a special drawing board that was angled for me to draw. When I first started the drawing, I could sit for less than a minute before the pain became unbearable. But I persevered, and every day I would try to draw. Eventually, I was able to build up the strength to draw for several minutes at a time. When I look at this drawing, I remember the pain, but I also remember the perseverance and the dedication of a loving husband.



Unfinished Beginning
8"X10"
December 2007

"Unfinished Beginning" – This painting was started on December 25, 2007. Minutes after setting my paint brush down to enjoy a horse ride, I was in a horse-riding accident and suffered severe injuries. The painting was never completed, and a decision was made to leave the painting as it was on December 25, 2007. The painting reminds me that sometimes life's journey takes a different turn, and those unfinished beginnings may lead us to another path to reach our destination.



Waterfalls in Tennessee

7¾"X11"

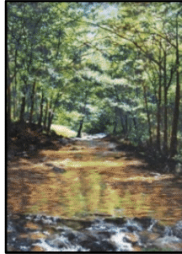
June 2010



Sunshine and Waterfalls

7½"X11"

July 2011



A Walk in the Cool Water

8"X11"

November 2010

“Waterfalls in Tennessee” – After a long hike, these beautiful waterfalls were revealed as we traveled along a narrow path. The sounds of the water were so soothing, and the cold water was refreshing as we soaked our tired feet. It was a long hike, but it was well worth the journey.

“Sunshine and Waterfalls” – The water cascades down the rocks as the sunshine illuminates the rocks. The viewer is invited to stop and feel the many sensations in a scene that intrigues the senses.

“A Walk in the Cool Water”

This painting captures a childhood memory of standing in the cool water of a mountain stream. The sensations of the sunlight and the cool water have a special place in my memory. Looking at the painting reminds me of the peaceful experience, and it allows me to feel the peace and calmness that I felt as a child.

The paintings above make up the **“Bedtime Trio”**. The **“Bedtime Trio”** is a group of paintings that are hung as a group on the bedroom wall. The paintings allow me to revisit the scenes and the sensations before drifting off to sleep.

MINDFULNESS WITH THE 5 SENSES



5 THINGS YOU CAN SEE

Identify specific items and pause to see their beauty



4 THINGS YOU CAN FEEL

Find textures that are pleasing to touch and imagine how they would feel



3 THINGS YOU CAN HEAR

Listen for sounds that are calming and peaceful



2 THINGS YOU CAN SMELL

Identify things that are pleasing to smell



1 THING YOU CAN TASTE

Imagine what you would enjoy eating if you were in the scene of the painting



Cut on the dotted lines to create a mindfulness reminder that you can take with you. Use this as a tool to help find peace when life seems to be overwhelming. Also, use this as a tool to focus on positive attributes and enjoy the blessings that are found around us when we stop to be mindful of our well-being.



Detail of McCracken's Duck Hole

Thank you to the Gallery Sponsors: **Burney Marsh and John Tucker, Bill and Virginia Anne Franklin Waters, Lawrence and Kathleen Smith, Drs. Patrick and Theresa Novotny, and the Statesboro Regional Art Association**

Special Thanks to: Lynn Holman, Eleanor Mauldin, Kim Riner, and the many supportive friends who encourage and support my artistic journey.