

Karen Helble - Drawing, Fiber Art, Metalwork (Pewter)



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Karen was born in Columbus, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Mary Washington College double majoring in Biology and Studio Art, with a concentration in sculpture. She began pewtersmithing while at MWC through an independent study in Experimental Design. In 1981, she and her husband, Stuart, started their own business, K & S Pewter, using traditional methods of hammering, casting, and spinning.

Exhibiting mainly on the east coast, they have demonstrated their colonial craft locally at the Waterford Fair for the past 27 years, done work for Mount Vernon, and been selected by *Early American Life* for inclusion in the list of "America's Top 200 Traditional Craftsmen." There are very few pewtersmiths in our country today, approximately only sixty, compared to about fifteen hundred in colonial times. Karen is also an avid calligrapher. She has been a member of the Washington Calligraphers Guild, enjoying taking specialty courses in many areas. She also enjoys weaving, (cloth and baskets), and has taught various private classes over the years. Currently, she lives on the beautiful Blue Ridge with her wonderful husband and three terrific children.



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Truly inspired by what God has given us in nature, a walk in the woods, for me, is a celebration! Everywhere I look, I am fascinated by the endless variations in color, texture, and patterns which I often incorporate into my pieces. With no greater example, I believe nature's gracefulness influences my artwork. I enjoy the malleability of the pewter which allows for endless creative possibilities. I have a great job; I observe the natural world around me, with admiration, and simply give my own interpretation creating works of art that, hopefully, will bring some joy to others. Next time you get a chance, take some time to go for a walk outside and be sure to look and listen with an open mind.