

Painter's Place showcase for artist Dunphy

March 4, 2010

Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature.

Painter's Place is my studio and gallery where I paint and display my art work. I paint local scenes, paintings of my trips, and flowers. I accept commissions to do house portraits in oil or watercolor, and people portraits in oil of watercolor. I also can be commissioned to paint a special painting for a specific place in a person's home. At Painter's Place I have available many Northville prints and note cards and paintings on glass and tile.

How did you first decide to open your business?

I have painted for most of my life and had a studio in my home where I also had sittings for portraits. I also traveled around the state for local and regional art shows including six years in the juried Ann Arbor Art Fair. I was invited to become a partner in Gallerie 12 in Plymouth with eleven other local artists. This was a successful venture for all of us. I also found that I enjoyed displaying my paintings in a gallery.

Why did you choose this area?

In the early 1970's while I was still a partner in Gallerie 12, I was contacted by the owners of Eve's Art Forum in Northville to teach pen and ink drawing. Eve's Art Forum was located above the Marquis Theater where I also rented studio space. Having a studio away from home had many advantages, and after Eve's Art Forum closed I moved to three rooms at the back of two businesses on Center Street. I continued to give art lessons there and eventually moved to my current building which was, many years ago, the Oldenburg Grocery Store.

What makes your business unique?

It is unique for a few reasons. I paint in several media: oil, watercolor, acrylic, and pen and ink. I also paint a variety of subjects: landscapes, flowers, people, and animals. Some of my paintings reflect

many of my European trips especially to the gardens of Monet, Cezanne, and Renoir in France. Another unique feature of my business involves giving lectures and demonstrations to garden clubs, art clubs, school art classes, and women's clubs. A subject that many people find interesting is "A Day in the Life of Monet." It is also unique because I have been in business for over 35 years in Northville.

How has it changed since you opened?

When I first opened a studio and gallery in Northville, I taught many classes for adults and children. Now I enjoy having people come into my studio to see what I am painting and to talk about art. I no longer teach art classes. But I also give of my talent whenever I can in order to benefit Northville.

Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

One of my more recent portrait sittings involved having two Keeshond dogs come to my Studio for a sitting. They are wonderful, big dogs. The male made himself at home lying down on the carpet, but the female was so interested in what was going on at my doorway, that it was difficult to see her face. Fortunately, I had some photos and was able to complete the portraits.

How has the recent economy affected your

Advertisement

The advertisement features the USA TODAY logo at the top left. Below it, the word "AutoPilot" is written in a large, bold, black font, with a blue airplane icon to its right. Underneath, a smartphone screen displays the app's interface, showing flight information for a "USA TODAY Meeting" on 09/21/2009, including a flight from BNA to IAD, a weather forecast for Washington (IAD) as "Partly Cloudy", and a link to "View a Flickr gallery of Washington". To the right of the phone, the text reads "The new travel app for iPhone® and iPod touch®". At the bottom right, it says "Presented by: Hampton" with the Hampton logo. A blue banner at the very bottom contains the text "SEE HOW IT WORKS »".

business?

I have found that the economy has made people cautious about using their discretionary funds for art. Many of my customers take more time to make decisions about buying fine art.

Any advice for business owners?

My advice is to get to know the people in our area. In stressful economic times like these the importance of customer service becomes absolutely essential.

What's in store for the future of your business?

I plan to continue providing fine art to my current customers and to new customers as the economy improves. I also will continue to seek new ways to bring fine art to the attention of people in our community.