



DIANE STAVER

PRESS KIT

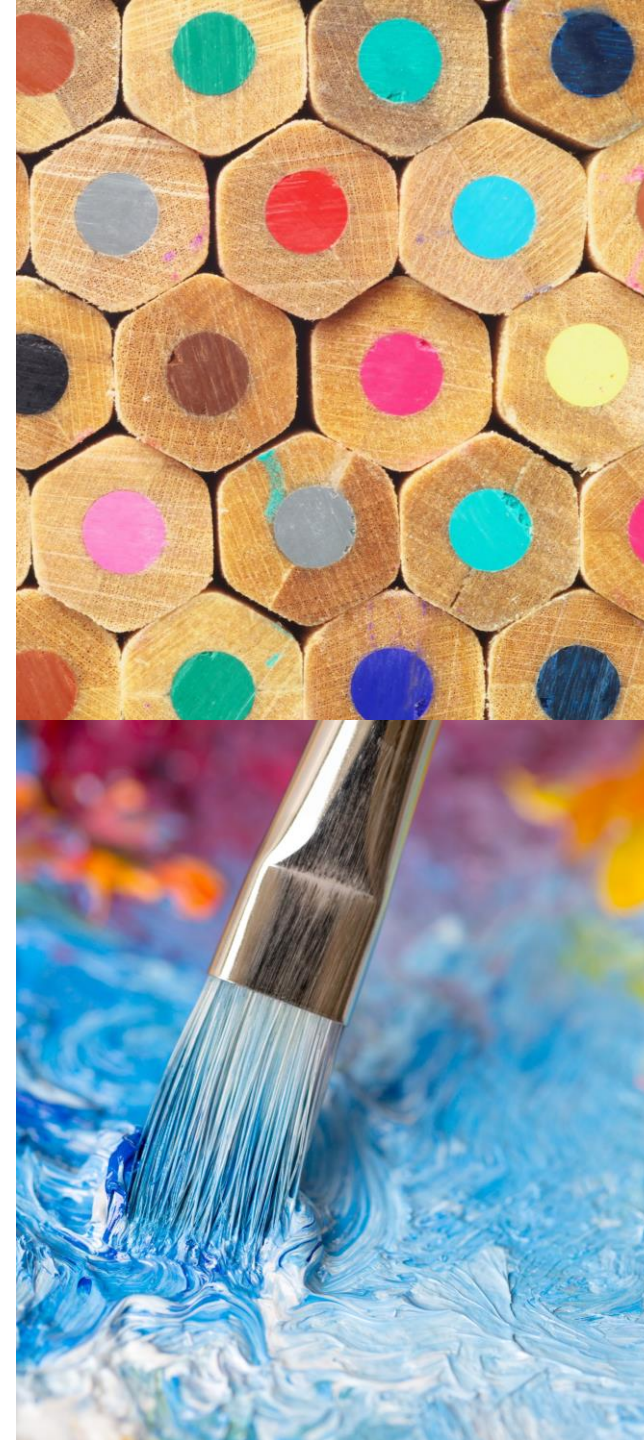


ABOUT

I love urban environments. I love cities; the bigger, the better! I love the people, the movement, the architecture, and the sounds that make up life in a city. Some people love the serenity of the country, but not me! For years I lived near a major highway and slept like a baby.

Since age five, I knew I wanted to be an artist, beginning to paint with oils at age ten. I have shown nationally (see CV for show listings). For fifteen years, I was a full-time college professor in Indianapolis, Indiana. My teaching experience includes the fundamentals of design, color theory, drawing (figure, observational, and perspective), painting, mixed media, and illustration (including book, editorial, and sequential illustration).

I relocated to Indiana from the Chicago area in the early 2000s. I have years of experience in the fine arts and graphic design. I attended *The School of Art Institute of Chicago* and *Northern Illinois University* (BFA and MA in Studio Art, Painting).





ARTIST STATEMENT

I don't use pencil and paper to create my concept work; I do everything digitally.

In my early work, I integrated organic shapes with man-made structures. In Photoshop, I combined the photos, then manipulated, merged, added to, and eliminated areas until the final image emerged. Once satisfied, I used the completed digital image as a visual reference for paintings.

In recent work, I explore urban display windows merging the window content with the reflections of the city. It is more image-oriented than previous work, yet I found a strong sense of bold color and flattened forms in my earlier work.

Diner, Acrylics, 2022

The top image is the digital concept piece.

The painting is shown on the bottom.

SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW WAS PRESENT



One area that I have never fully understood is how people interpret my art. Part of me is in each painting I create, but I often am surprised by comments regarding the meaning of the paintings. My first reaction is the person is giving me too much credit for being profound!

A quote from artist Hunter Wild sums it up nicely “There’s a great feedback loop, where what’s painted is certainly coming FROM me and is strongly connected to who I am, but I discover some part of myself in the painting, something that wasn’t intended and something I didn’t even know was present.” I now realize the viewer perceives “something I didn’t know was present” in my art.

I have an ongoing series of urban display windows, which show the merchandise placed inside the store and include the reflections of the city buildings. The ideas I have behind these paintings are multiple.

1. I love cities and city life.
2. Display windows are often found in older buildings in cities, which I love. I am from the Chicago area and have a rich experience visiting downtown Chicago. I recall the city’s beauty from my childhood, especially during December. The businesses would attempt to outdo one another in decorating their display windows. In the 60s and 70s, stores, including *Marshall Fields & Co.*
3. I went to college in downtown Chicago. In school, I wrote a paper on how the *Marshall Fields* display department created the windows. I had a behind-the-scenes tour.
4. I love to meld the merchandise on display in my paintings, with the buildings, cars, and people passing by the window.
5. Last but not least, I work hard to apply my knowledge of design and color theory principles in my work.

That is what I think and feel when I look at a completed piece from my display window series. I recently had a couple of comments on this series. Both people saw things in my work that fall into the “something I didn’t know was present” category.

Fellow artist John said of my work, “Storefronts have an interior life, but you as the observer are separated from the elements within by glass and stone. You can only imagine what might be going on inside, perhaps you have a longing to be on the inside as well, and in your art, you create a universe that is a statement on your existential situation.”

My friend Sherri shared, “This is beautiful and a subtle commentary on our modern consumerism and gluttonous consumption of the Arts, and really everything in our life as we speed towards what?”

John and Sherri saw things that I wasn’t aware of in my work. When I think about their insights, I see what they are saying. It’s a gift to hear other people’s views on my “babies.”

Artists bare their souls in their work. They may or may not be aware of the more profound message their work invokes in the viewer. Some artists know the depth of the message they convey in their work, and then there are people like me. I am humbled by the comments of John, Sherri, and everyone who took the time to analyze my work. I am constantly learning!

CV

In View 2023, The Art Center of Highland Park, Highland Park, IL, 1/8 –1/28, 2023

Scape, Online Photography show, The Chateau Gallery, Louisville, KY, IN, 1/1- 2/1 2023

Ginger & Spice & Everything Nice, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 12/2 – 12/26, 2022

Penrod Arts Fair, Newfield's, Indianapolis, IN, 9/10 2022

Circle Foundation for the Arts, Artist of the Month Competition, Award of Excellence. International 6/2022

Rustbelt: REDUX, Vestige Concept Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA, 3/26 – 4/24 2022

ArtAsent, Publication, featuring people. January 2022

Valdosta National 2022, The Dedo Maranville Fine Arts Gallery, Valdosta, GA, 1/18 – 2/7, 2022

2022 Regional Exhibition, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN, 1/6 – 2/6, 2022.

Photography Now, Black Box Gallery, Portland, OR, 12/1 – 12/20, 2021

Group Show, Sun King, Broad Ripple, IN, 10/20 – 11/14, 2021

Biafarin Solo Show, Online, 8/1 – 8/31 2021

BIPOC are the Future Exhibition, The Julia M. Carson The Gallery, Ivy Tech College, Indianapolis, IN 3/8 – 3/28, 2021

Save the Post Office. realART, virtual show, Agoura, CA, 8-2020

Home, Garfield Park Art Center, Indianapolis, IN, virtual show, 7-3 – 7/31, 2020

Onyx + East, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 12/7 – 12/28, 2018

COLOR, Blackline Studio, Indianapolis, IN, 12/7/18 - 1/12/19

Drawn to Print, Metrospace & Kresge Art Center Gallery, Michigan State University, 7/27 – 8/31, 2018

All That You Can Imagine, Core New Art Space, Denver, Colorado, May 10-27, 2018

The Next Big Thing, Studio Channel Island, Camarillo, CA, 5/17 – 6 / 24, 2017

Visual Art: Urban Collage and the Collage City, Theme: Resistance and Resilience, Feral Factory Ltd., Denver, CO, 4/29 – 5/28, 2017

Red, Stutz Raymond James Art Gallery, Indianapolis, IN, 2/3 – 3/2, 2017

Abstract Sanctuary 4 Verum Ultimum Art Gallery, Portland, OR, 2/4 -3/4, 2017

Blue Indy, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 12/16 – 1/17

Show Your World, 2nd International Juried Exhibition, RE:ARTISTE International Art Organization, 15 White St, NYC, NY, 11/10 - 11/22, 2016

Contemporary Still Life Core New Art Space, Denver, CO, July 2016

FATE, Inspiration: Foundations, Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL, 2/16 – 4/16 2016

Faculty Show Art Institute Gallery, Indianapolis, IN. 1/16 – 3/16 , 2016

Place in Proximity (SCENE) Metrospace & Kresge Art Center Gallery, Michigan State University, 9/15 – 10/15 2015

Abstract Sanctuary 2 Verum Ultimum Art Gallery, Portland, OR. 2/15-3/15 2015

Solo Show Art Institute Gallery, Indianapolis, IN, 8/8 – 10/10, 2014

Faculty Show Art Institute Gallery, Indianapolis, IN, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012.

Jurying

Annual Congressional Art Competition. Art submitted from high school students throughout the state of Indiana. The grand prize winner's piece will be shown in Washington D.C. the next year. 4-23-18