

## **Artist Statement on Landscapes and Forests:**

My art is heavily influenced by the environments in which I have lived and traveled. I grew up in Iowa and became keenly aware of the subtle nuances of beautiful farmlands that contrasted dramatically with the Iowa skies. In 1964, I lived in Chile and in 1967 in Mexico. Both are countries of great topographical variety that stimulated me to expand my subject matter beyond the farmlands. After I married, I spent 9 years in Texas where I became intensely interested in the power of big skies. More and more area of the canvas became devoted to the sky. I began experimenting with brighter colors and expressionistic strokes. This style stayed with me while I interpreted scenes from my living environments in the England (1983-88 & 1994-99) and The Netherlands (1988-94). I have traveled extensively abroad and am intrigued by the repetition of similar geography in different parts of the world. Therefore, I rarely put manmade objects in my paintings, as I hope to emphasize the universality of my landscapes.

My husband and I have now settled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland amongst 30 acres of forests, farms, creeks, and the Chesapeake Bay. This environment stimulates my artistic muse in a multitude of ways. I walk through my forest and see the patterns and textures that trees make. I sail on our boat and am intrigued by the ever-changing light on water. I drive through the countryside and love the patterns of the fields next to the highway. Rarely do I work from photographs. Instead I paint from memory. I am intrigued at what the mind remembers when stimulated visually. I believe that the memory records the most important and powerful images of a scene. The memory also contains that visual element which is most emotionally charged. The series entitled, "Forests of my Mind" is an example of painting from my memory. I tried to remember many of the forests through which I have walked and capture their essence or visual soul. In all of my landscapes, color, texture, and shape remain the most dominant elements that I use to interpret my visual life.