



Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

Ann Hupke- multi media artist



It was nearly ten years ago when I met St. John artist Ann Hupke. The Steeple Gallery had just opened in 1998 and the St. John Garden Club was looking for a central place to hold their monthly meetings.

St. John wasn't as developed as it is today, and the garden club was growing in membership. Members were looking for a professional meeting space as their homes were not suitable. At the time, the gallery was the ideal background for the garden club. Nestled in a wooded area which was newly landscaped, I was bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, novice business owner eager to introduce myself and the gallery to the St. John community.

I was thrilled with the idea that gardeners who are passionate about flowers would be meeting in a place where they would be surrounded by

would eventually be featured in the 1999 St. John Garden Walk for which I was awarded a commemorative brick.

Ann Hupke was one of the original members of the

hundreds of antiquarian botanicals. What was a better way to get appreciation of my largest inventory than by avid gardeners? The Steeple Gallery

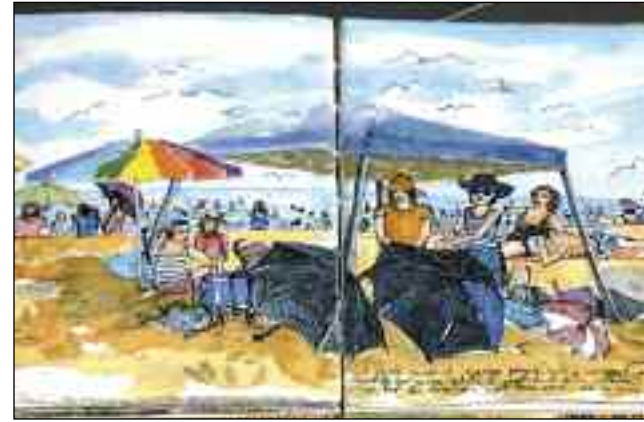


Photo provided to the Star

Ann Hupke is a multi-media artist who creates one-of-a-kind journals in addition to watercolors. Hupke said she enjoys experimenting with different water media, papermaking, and collages Above is the opening page of one of her handmade journals. She and her husband went to Indiana Dunes State Park where she wrote down her thoughts of being at the beach that day on the lower right hand corner. The journal is painted/created with watercolor and pen and ink. Below are more journals created by Hupke, who has been asked to teach a class on creating one's own journal.

garden club and continues to be a member. Her home was featured the same year as the gallery in 1999 as well as two other times. I always admired Anne because she was not only a passionate gardener, but she was equally as accomplished as a professional artist. Several of her original botanically inspired pieces were exhibited on the garden walk. Hupke explained, "Art and gardening are very similar. I enjoy the shapes and colors and the repletion of



forms which come with gardening."

I asked Hupke how she became interested in art. "I went to Bishop Noll High School where they didn't have any art programs. The nun at my school must have noticed something and recommended that I apply for a scholarship at the Chicago Academy of Art. I received the scholarship where I would graduate. There after Hupke would get married and raise a family. But art would always be near and dear to her hear. She continued her education by attending art programs at Purdue University and various other artist's workshops and seminars.

— See Hupke, continued page 3

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— Hupke continued from page 2

Hupke's art would find its way into exhibitions, galleries, and festivals including the park Full of Art in Griffith, Old Orchard Fine Art show in Skokie, and the Chesterton Art Fair as well as many other festivals.

Currently, her work fluctuates between watercolors, and mixed media to which she

seems to gravitate. She's been experimenting with different water media, papermaking, and collages. Using the combination of light, color, and texture Hupke combines these fascinating design elements which can be both sophisticated and charming.

Hupke's the Vice President and membership chairperson for the Midwest Collage Society. The society promotes and displays primarily mixed media and collages.

Recently I invited Ann Hupke to participate in the collaborative event with Precision Construction, "The Fine Art of Living II," held in Summer Tree Estates in Crown Point.

Ann displayed two dozen custom framed, mixed media original works of art. (Insert photo of pieces of art) The response from the event was very positive regarding her work.

Her creativity is not limited to large works of art. She creates one-of-a-kind greeting card which are hand cut, stitched, embellished and signed. Visit the gallery to see them in person. They are nice last minute gifts suitable for framing. But her newest love is making one-of-a-kind journals. (Insert Photo of Journal). Hupke began making journals out of her experiences from traveling and attending workshops, and paint-outs. The journals are works of art in and of themselves.

In fact, many of her friends, artists and non-artists asked her if she would teach a class on journal making. She's made quite a few and they really are spectacular. She loves making them because she explains that if you don't record the memory, you may not be able to recall that cherished experience years later. Many of the pages include drawings, watercolors, photos, and three dimensional embellishments, and collages.

The Steeple Gallery is pleased to announce that Anne Hupke will be offering a journal making class (from scratch) in between the months of January and



Photos provided to the Star

Pictured above, one of Hupke's mixed media artwork greeting cards. This card is priced at \$8. At left, is a photo from one of Hupke's journals of flowers in her garden, another of her passions. Hupke adds a poem to the drawings of the poppies and lists the author.



February. You don't have any art, sewing, or crafty, experience. Just a thirst to expand your experiences and knowledge. Be sure to call the gallery in January or visit The Steeple Gallery web sit to find out more information. E-mail comments to samown-er@sbcglobal.net or call (219) 365-1014; www.thesteeplegallery.com.

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