

2014 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL IN THE ARTS AWARD

Eileen Murray

Eileen Murray is a painter, printmaker and encaustic artist who works on canvas, paper and wood. Her work is colorful, bold and richly layered, often creating a sense of optimism and whimsy. She has exhibited widely, with several solo exhibits in New Jersey and as part of such juried exhibitions as the Smithtown Arts Council juried exhibit, *Works on Paper*, the national juried exhibition at the Gallery at R&F in Kingston, New York, and the New Jersey juried exhibition in the Park Avenue Club in Madison. Additionally, Eileen's work has been included in numerous group exhibits in galleries throughout the NY/NJ Metropolitan area, including the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, the Contemporary Art Network in New York City, and the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit.

Born in New York City, Eileen grew up in Chatham and currently has her home and studio in Morris Plains, where she resides with her husband, Michael. She received her BA from the College of New Jersey, and received a scholarship to continue her professional growth with coursework at St. John's University in Queens, New York. Eileen has more than 20 years of experience as a professional graphic designer and her past clients include AT&T, Hershey's, Hunter Douglas, and Lucent Technologies.

Yet, it is the particular direction in which Eileen focused her artistic talents in more recent years that distinguishes her even further. Since 2001, she has been working for the Arts Access Program at the Matheny Medical and Educational Center, a specialized hospital and an amazing educational facility for children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities. Arts Access is Matheny's unique fine arts

program, founded on the guiding principle of unlimited freedom of creative choice.

Originally, she was a painting facilitator, working directly with artists with disabilities to enable their artistic visions into reality. She then served as the program's Assistant Director for eight years and was appointed permanent Director in August 2011. Today, Eileen oversees and directs all of the program's activities and ventures, both internally and externally. Under her leadership, Arts Access has grown and expanded, extending the program's reach to many individuals with disabilities throughout New Jersey. Passionate about her work, she is committed to enriching the lives of people with disabilities through creative expression and participation in the arts. The Arts Access artists inspire her every day with their fearless and uninhibited approach to art making, and they have greatly influenced her personal sense of creative freedom.

Therefore, for her work not only as an outstanding visual artist but also for her extraordinary passion and commitment to enrich the lives of people with disabilities through creative expression and participation in the arts, Morris Arts is proud to recognize Eileen Murray with the 2014 Award for Outstanding Professional in the Arts.

Will Eileen Murray please come up to receive the award?

March 27, 2014