



Recent awards:

- 2019 Hennepin County Fair 1st place and reserved grand prize in oil painting.
- 2019 Ramsey County Fair 1st place in Oil Painting.
- 2019 Gallery 96 Fall Art Contest - 3rd Place in Oil Painting
- 2020 Gallery 96 Winter Art Contest - 3rd Place in Oil Painting
- 2021 Gallery 96 Spring Virtual Art Contest- 1st Place in Oil Painting

THE GALLERY

The purpose of the Stillwater Public Library Gallery is to provide education through exhibits and displays; to increase community involvement in the library; and to provide an enjoyable environment for the library's users.

For more information about the gallery,
contact Keri Goeltl
kgoeltl@ci.stillwater.mn.us

224 Third St. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082
651.275.4338

www.stillwaterlibrary.org

Classic, Vibrant and Painterly Still Life Oil Paintings



Karen Tan

June - July 2021

Artist Reception

Saturday, July 24

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Karen Tan

Artist Statement:

My passion is to celebrate the beauty and richness of life through art. Being able to create art is a privilege I don't take for granted. Art is a beautiful and powerful visual language not only to tell the stories of our ordinary everyday lives, but it can also preserve or recreate memory of the past. I paint mostly still life, occasionally landscape en plein air, and like to explore different approaches to create art. More traditional old master's chiaroscuro style is commonly painted but recently I have made some high key background paintings with looser and painterly brushstrokes. Painting collections of potteries and fresh fruits in the studio consistently inspires me. Recently flowers have also found their way to my creations as well. I hope my paintings bring you joy and a new level of appreciation for art.

Artist Bio

My name is Karen Ni Tan, originally from Malaysia. I have always loved to draw and paint ever since I was a child. My doodling went out of control when my mom found out so many of my art markings were all over the family living room walls and furnitures, even in the hidden corners of our house. However, being practical and due to life itself, I have steered away from making art in my adulthood. After being married and homemaking for almost two decades, I finally found my way back to art gradually.

I always believe that each one of us has a special calling or purpose in life perhaps in different seasons. Mine just found its way back to me after my family immigrated to the U.S. I appreciate that now I am in an environment where art is so cherished, allowing me to nourish this passion by honing my skill further. I started off as a self taught artist in oil pastels and acrylic and had been offering art classes to kids and adults with different organizations and home studio for the past 12 years. I have been fortunate to recently transition to painting almost full time.

My passion for traditional still life art grew deeper as I started painting in oil in 2017. I took classes from different artists at the White Bear Center for the Arts and St Paul Art Academy for 2 years. To further hone my skill, I studied oil painting via online classes and workshops. Some of my favorite artists are old masters like Emil Carlson, Frans Mortelmans and David Leffel.

I love painting traditional artifacts with cultural elements and also contemporary pottery. I have a small collections of jars, vases and pots. When I study their shapes and forms, I am always reminded of God being the potter and I am the clay. He continues to mould me and make me His masterpiece. 2 Corinthians 4:7 says we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us." I love setting them up in studio and see how the warm and cool lights affect the mood of the set up. I strive to express the atmosphere, emotions and inspirations on my canvas. I hope my paintings will inspire you and bring you lots of joy.



To Purchase Artwork:

Contact Info:

email : knh.tan@gmail.com

Website: www.karentanart.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/karentanart

Instagram: www.instagram.com/karentanart