

Brigitte L. Emme
Artist

My passion for art was reignited in 2004, when my younger sister was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia and was given less than 6 months to live. Suddenly priorities shifted and the important things in life came more into focus. One of those priorities was my need to create and to find beauty in the world. I started with sketching the trees outside of the hospital window where my sister lay fighting for her life. I then shifted to acrylic painting and photography. I took many black and white photos of my sister and her young children as they went through their journey. I thank God every day that my sister is a survivor, 10 years now!

My focus in art is still shifting. I love photography, but I also enjoy the feeling of accomplishment after a painting or drawing is completed. In 2011 I went back to school to complete my bachelor's degree in nursing. I graduated from Olivet Nazarene University in August of 2013. After considering going on for my Master's degree in nursing I decided to take a little detour and enrolled in Kankakee Community College's Fine Arts Degree program. I have met many talented and inspirational individuals through the classes I have taken thus far. I am still searching my heart to decide which direction to go and plan to at least complete the Associate's Degree at KCC.

I recently have been reading a great little book called, "What You Do Best in the Body of Christ" by Bruce Bugbee. It is helping me discover my spiritual gifts, personal style and my God-given passion. An especially inspirational verse within this book is, "passion is the God-given desire of the heart to make a difference somewhere" (pg. 30). I have since decided to begin putting all the money I earn from selling my art towards Christian Missions. I have signed on to go to Haiti this coming January and I hope to go on many more missions as God directs me. As a nurse of over 20 years I know I make a difference in my patient's lives, now I hope to continue that gift of caring and spread the love of Jesus to those who need it most. Art will be my vehicle to get me there!