

# about the artist...



## Michelle Murray



*M*ichelle Murray was born in 1962 in Michigan and raised in Ohio before coming to Alberta, Canada as a young adult. She now resides with her husband Sean and her family in Edmonton, AB, Canada. She is the mother of eight and grandmother of ten.

Michelle's earliest memories are of watching her grandfather paint and listening to his stories about her great, great grandfather who painted the church ceiling in Serra San Bruno, Italy. She had no idea at the time that one day she would follow in their footsteps. Her first revelation came at 14 when she and her best friend began sketching a vase together. She realizes now that she was drawing "from life." It opened the floodgates for a lifelong passion.

After early training in Commercial Art, Michelle began to paint with oils in 2003. Representational oil paintings are her passionate focus. In love with oils from the very first brushstroke, she realized the breadth, depth, and width of oils is inexhaustible. Using the paint to its fullest, she uses thin transparent darks and thicker lights to add vibrancy to her work. After studying with Dan Gerhartz, the nuances of painting from life were opened before her. She paints life studies on location and works from life in the studio. Depicting beauty results from a special use of illuminating light. Colour, edges, and value help her to breathe life into the canvas.

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