



ANNE NEILSON

A lifelong artist, Anne Neilson began painting with oils in 2003 and quickly became nationally renowned for her ethereal Angel Series. A favorite among individuals and private art collectors, Anne's paintings are inspiring reflections of her faith and recognized for their innate flare for light, color, and embodiment of divine wonder. But Anne's journey began well before she found her voice on a canvas with an angel.





"EVERY CHILD IS AN ARTIST. THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO REMAIN AN ARTIST ONCE WE GROW UP."

— PABLO PICASSO

Even early in childhood, I desired to be an artist. Despite receiving a D in art during school, I spent much of my time doodling and exploring the world of art. After graduating from college and working several years as a teacher, I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, and began my eponymous line of hand-painted pottery, Herring Designs.

During that time, I traveled the East coast, representing my pottery, selling it out of my home, and tapping into the artist that had always lived inside me. After marrying my husband, Clark, I put my art on the back burner to parent our four children. Never giving up on my innate desire to create, I continued to paint as my children went to school. On a remarkable day in 2003, I ventured into my home studio yearning to represent my faith through artistic expression. It wasn't long before an angel took shape, and after sending a picture of my new work to my sister, I received the affirming reply, "You've found your voice."

As my artwork took off, I felt something else stirring inside of me to make a difference in my community. I had a transformational day serving with an organization dedicated to seeing the homeless population fed and restored, and as my daughter climbed into my car that day, I wondered how I would do it: parent, paint, and give of my time — I heard God quietly tell me to "paint and give back."

With a newfound purpose, I continued to serve and paint, committing a portion of all my art sales to non-profits. The stories of how my angels affected the hearts of people across the nation began to influence the once small vision I had. I desired to do more, to bring light and hope into the lives of people all over the world, so in 2012 I self-published "Angels in Our Midst" (2012), an inspirational coffee table book featuring stunning fine-art images of my signature angels, birds, figures, and landscapes, as well as uplifting and inspirational stories behind some of my favorite charitable causes. To date, my book has sold more than 30,000 copies. ➤





In addition to painting and self-publishing my first book, I continued to be deeply moved by the work of other artists and the social impact art has on the communities. In 2013, I opened Anne Neilson Fine Art Gallery, representing over 40 national and international artists, with the mission to be a lighthouse in my city and beyond. To this day, the gallery, now located in Charlotte's luxury retail neighborhood, South Park, is committed to giving back a portion of its sales to support worthy organizations close to my heart.

In the middle of opening the gallery and following the success of "Angels in Our Midst," I released a companion book titled "Strokes of Compassion" (2014), which is filled with acclaimed art from multiple artists as well as details behind my artistic and personal journey. I also released my third coffee table book, "Angels: The Collector's Edition" in the fall of 2016. This special-edition book includes the largest collection of stories and my fine-art original images to date. "Angels: The Collector's Edition" contains the original inspirational content from "Angels in Our Midst" as well as 150 pages of new content, with stories from critically acclaimed music artists Steven Curtis Chapman, Amy Grant, and Audio Adrenaline. Sales from "Angels: The Collector's Edition" benefit organizations dedicated to fighting against the effects of homelessness and poverty worldwide.

As a response to the growing demand for affordable access to my original Angels, I launched Anne Neilson Home in 2014: a collection of luxury home products, that includes candles, note cards, scripture cards, prints, and journals. I showcased my products, including an exclusively designed candle, at the 2017 Golden Globe Awards, and they are now in over 500 retail stores nationwide.

When I'm not busy running multiple businesses, painting in my studio, or developing new products for Anne Neilson Home, I enjoy spending time with my family. Some of my favorite activities include hosting dinner parties and watching movies — admittedly, I am often teased by my family for watching my favorite movies over and over.

There is no doubt in my mind that as Anne Neilson Home and Anne Neilson Fine Art grow, I will continue to carve out a space for faith-reflected paintings and solidify my legacy through art and philanthropy.

Where Women Create would like to thank Anne Neilson for her involvement in our winter issue. To learn more, visit anneneilsonfineart.com, anneneilsonhome.com, and contact anne@anneneilsonfineart.com.

Photography courtesy of Anne Neilson.

