



# DIANE STAVER

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**PRESS KIT**



## ABOUT



Ms. Staver relocated to Indiana from the Chicago area in the early 2000s. Diane attended *The School of Art Institute of Chicago* and *Northern Illinois University* (BFA and MA in Studio Art, Painting). She has several years of experience in the fine arts, graphic design and education.

Since age five, Staver knew she wanted to be an artist, beginning to paint with oils at age ten. Her work shows nationally. Diane was a full-time college professor in Indianapolis, Indiana, for thirteen years. Her teaching experience includes the fundamentals of design, color theory, drawing (figure, observational, and perspective), painting, mixed media, and illustration (including book, editorial, and sequential illustration).

Diane says of her inspiration, “I love urban environments. I love cities; the bigger, the better! I love the people, the movement, the architecture, and the sounds that makeup life in an urban environment.” She adds, “Some people love the serenity of the country, but not me. I lived near a major highway for years and slept like a baby!”

# ARTIST STATEMENT

I don't use pencil and paper to create my concept work; I do everything digitally. I use Photoshop and original digital photos to create my concept art. I combine photos, then manipulate, merge, add to, and eliminate areas until the final image emerges. Once satisfied, I used the completed digital image as a visual reference for paintings.

In my recent work, I've been exploring urban environments. Sometimes its display windows that merge the interior content with the reflections of the city. Other times I add graffiti to buildings or objects. I love buildings that look like they have been around for years. I enjoy working with strong, bold colors and flattened forms.

I work with acrylics, and mixed media. I found a marvelous stretched canvas made specifically for using different types of mediums. I have been including acrylics, watercolors, colored pencils, and archival markers on these canvases.

## ***Hong Kong Apartment***, Mixed Media, 2023

The top image is the original photo. The middle image is the digital concept art. The painting is shown on the bottom.



# SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW WAS PRESENT



One area that I have never fully understood is how people interpret my art. Part of me is in each painting I create, but I often am surprised by comments regarding the meaning of the paintings. My first reaction is the person is giving me too much credit for being profound!

A quote from artist Hunter Wild sums it up nicely “There’s a great feedback loop, where what’s painted is certainly coming FROM me and is strongly connected to who I am, but I discover some part of myself in the painting, something that wasn’t intended and something I didn’t even know was present.” I now realize the viewer perceives “something I didn’t know was present” in my art.

I have an ongoing series of urban display windows, which show the merchandise placed inside the store and include the reflections of the city buildings. The ideas I have behind these paintings are multiple.

1. I love cities and city life.
2. Display windows are often found in older buildings in cities, which I love. I am from the Chicago area and have a rich experience visiting downtown Chicago. I recall the city’s beauty from my childhood, especially during December. The businesses would attempt to outdo one another in decorating their display windows. In the 60s and 70s, stores, including *Marshall Fields & Co.*
3. I went to college in downtown Chicago. In school, I wrote a paper on how the *Marshall Fields* display department created the windows. I had a behind-the-scenes tour.
4. I love to meld the merchandise on display in my paintings, with the buildings, cars, and people passing by the window.
5. Last but not least, I work hard to apply my knowledge of design and color theory principles in my work.

That is what I think and feel when I look at a completed piece from my display window series. I recently had a couple of comments on this series. Both people saw things in my work that fall into the “something I didn’t know was present” category.

Fellow artist John said of my work, “Storefronts have an interior life, but you as the observer are separated from the elements within by glass and stone. You can only imagine what might be going on inside, perhaps you have a longing to be on the inside as well, and in your art, you create a universe that is a statement on your existential situation.”

My friend Sherri shared, “This is beautiful and a subtle commentary on our modern consumerism and gluttonous consumption of the Arts, and really everything in our life as we speed towards what?”

John and Sherri saw things that I wasn’t aware of in my work. When I think about their insights, I see what they are saying. It’s a gift to hear other people’s views on my “babies.”

Artists bare their souls in their work. They may or may not be aware of the more profound message their work invokes in the viewer. Some artists know the depth of the message they convey in their work, and then there are people like me. I am humbled by the comments of John, Sherri, and everyone who took the time to analyze my work. I am constantly learning!

# CV

5:55, online show, Chaffey College, *2024 Hip Hop Studies Summit*, 2/28 – 3/1 2024  
*In View 2024*, The Art Center of Highland Park, Highland Park, IL, 12/15 – 1/20, 2024  
*Salsa Verda*, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 12/2 – 12/27, 2023  
*Urban*, Online show, *Art Fluent*, 11/1- present  
*Solo Show*, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 9/1 – 9/24 2023  
*July Invitational*, Gallery 9, Lincoln Nebraska, 7/5 – 7/30 2023  
*Indiana Now 2023*, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette IN, 5/5 – 8/6 2023  
*On the Streets, The Urban Experience*, MVA Gallery, Bethlehem, PA, 2/22 – 3/19 2023.  
*Spaces and Place, Oh My...*, Arts Illiana Gallery, Terra Haute, IN, 1/20 – 4-7 2023,  
Competition awarded for *Best Representation of Shows Theme*.  
*In View 2023*, The Art Center of Highland Park, Highland Park, IL, 1/8 – 1/28, 2023  
*Scope*, Online Photography show, The Chateau Gallery, Louisville, KY, IN, 1/1- 2/1 2023  
*Ginger & Spice & Everything Nice*, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN,  
12/2 – 12/26, 2022  
*Penrod Arts Fair*, Newfield's, Indianapolis, IN, 9/10 2022  
*Circle Foundation for the Arts*, Artist of the Month Competition, Award of Excellence.  
International 6/2022  
*Rustbelt: REDUX*, Vestige Concept Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA, 3/26 – 4/24 2022  
*ArtAsent*, Publication, featuring people. January 2022  
*Valdosta National 2022*, Dedo Maranville Fine Arts Gallery, Valdosta, GA, 1/18 – 2/7, 2022  
*2022 Regional Exhibition*, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN, 1/6 – 2/6, 2022.  
*Photography Now*, Black Box Gallery, Portland, OR, 12/1 – 12/20, 2021  
*Group Show*, Sun King, Broad Ripple, IN, 10/20 – 11/14, 2021  
*Biafarin Solo Show*, Online, 8/1 – 8/31 2021  
*BIPOC are the Future* Exhibition, The Julia M. Carson The Gallery, Ivy Tech College,  
Indianapolis, IN 3/8 – 3/28, 2021

*Save the Post Office*. realART, virtual show, Agoura, CA, 8-2020  
*Home*, Garfield Park Art Center, Indianapolis, IN, virtual show, 7-3 – 7/31, 2020  
*Onyx + East*, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 12/7 – 12/28, 2018  
*COLOR*, Blackline Studio, Indianapolis, IN, 12/7/18 - 1/12/19  
*Drawn to Print*, Metrospace & Kresge Art Center Gallery, Michigan State University,  
7/27 – 8/31, 2018  
*All That You Can Imagine*, Core New Art Space, Denver, Colorado, May 10-27, 2018  
*The Next Big Thing*, Studio Channel Island, Camarillo, CA, 5/17 – 6 / 24, 2017  
*Visual Art: Urban Collage and the Collage City*, Theme: Resistance and Resilience, Feral Factory  
Ltd., Denver, CO, 4/29 – 5/28, 2017  
*Red*, Stutz Raymond James Art Gallery, Indianapolis, IN, 2/3 – 3/2, 2017  
*Abstract Sanctuary 4* Verum Ultimium Art Gallery, Portland, OR, 2/4 -3/4, 2017  
*Blue Indy*, The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 12/16 – 1/17  
*Show Your World, 2nd International Juried Exhibition*, RE:ARTISTE International Art Organization,  
15 White St, NYC, NY, 11/10 - 11/22, 2016  
*Contemporary Still Life* Core New Art Space, Denver, CO, July 2016  
*FATE, Inspiration: Foundations*, Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL, 2/16 – 4/16 2016  
*Place in Proximity (SCENE)* Metrospace & Kresge Art Center Gallery, Michigan State University,  
9/15 – 10/15 2015  
*Abstract Sanctuary 2* Verum Ultimium Art Gallery, Portland, OR. 2/15-3/15 2015  
*Solo Show* Art Institute Gallery, Indianapolis, IN, 8/8 – 10/10, 2014  
*Faculty Shows*, Art Institute Gallery, Indianapolis, IN, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016.

**Galley** *Art on Main*, Carmel, Indiana Beginning in February 2024, I joined the gallery.

**Jurying** *Annual Congressional Art Competition*. Art submitted from high school students from  
the state of Indiana. The grand prize winner's piece is shown in Washington D.C. 4-23-18