

About the Artist: Karen Andrews

“Every artist should have their own gallery space,” says Karen Andrews, artist in residence at Inner Vision Studio on Furnace Road, just a mile north of West Stockbridge village. An accomplished watercolorist, photographer, and creator of attractive functional art products, Karen welcomes visitors to her adorable periwinkle- and coral-colored studio with just a phone call ahead during the off-season. During the summer the gallery will be open more regular hours.

Her inspiration for Inner Vision Studio happened while visiting the famous home-based galleries of the artists of Deer Isle, Maine. Artists and art lovers can stay connected easily through a permanent art map of the region. Karen was convinced this was the way she wanted to sell her art. When they returned home, she and her husband fixed up their former one-stall horse barn into a small exhibition space.

“Commercial galleries have their purpose,” says Karen, “but they add cost for the buyer and the artist, and they create a separation between them. “I prefer to meet and get to know my customers directly, and if they live locally, I can even let them ‘try on’ a piece of art in their home before buying it.”

Karen and her beautiful watercolors, delightful tableware, and whimsical apparel have been lovingly displayed and purchased here in the Berkshires for over ten years. Many second homeowners return year after year to purchase more art and see what she’s up to. You may have seen her botanical watercolor placemats at local fairs and on friends’ tables.

Throughout the pandemic it was safer to shop online, so Karen enhanced her e-commerce website, InnerVision-Studio.com. Customers can shop easily for an ever-growing range of paintings, prints, and functional products. “I make yoga pants in about a dozen different patterns, and they come in six sizes. If you live nearby, you can try on a pair and make sure you get the right size. Or you can buy a matched set of gifts: a set of placemats, a glass cutting board, an apron, and a linen tea towel. I’m becoming sort of a destination for things like Mother’s Day and housewarming gifts.”

It’s always inspiring to speak to the creator of a work of art, and Karen loves to tell visitors about how a piece came about. Karen’s other vocation is Creativity Coaching, a guided practice that helps clients free up their creative juices and increase their productivity and visibility.

Karen’s artwork spans many mediums and approaches, and Inner Vision Studio is never the same place twice. Each summer she displays some new work—impressionistic watercolors or collages of architectural ruins, for example. “One of the great things about having my own gallery is that I can express many different parts of myself, which I couldn’t do in a commercial gallery. They tend to pigeon-hole artists, and it can be limiting,” says Karen.

The experience of visiting the studio is both uplifting and magical with its luscious gardens surrounding the colorful building. Inner Vision Studio is a delight to the senses and the imagination. “Artists and art lovers need each other,” says Karen. She invites visitors to come by to say hello, pick up some gifts, explore her artwork, and see what’s happening now. Stay tuned for gallery hours, and feel free to call ahead for a spontaneous studio visit by calling (413) 212-1394.



Photos courtesy of Karen Andrews