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FEATURED

Renaissance woman: Anoka artist showcases mixed-media art at Rumriver Art Center

Paige Kieffer Aug 2, 2019 Updated Aug 5, 2019



Anoka mixed-media artist Delayne Hostetler's Rumriver Art Center show, "A Creativity of Muses," is on display through Saturday, Aug. 17. (Photo by Paige Kieffer)

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Anoka mixed-media artist Delayne Hostetler's gallery show "A Creativity of Muses" is on display at the Rumriver Art Center through Saturday, Aug. 17.

Hostetler is a self-taught mixed-media artist who has been creating art for over 50 years. She started creating art as a child, when she spent countless hours doodling galloping horses and fairy waifs in sketchbooks.

"I've been creative all my life, and I've always known I wanted to be an artist when I grew up," she said.

Hostetler took every art class she could during her time at Anoka High School where she continued to advance her drawing skills with graphite pencils and ink.

"School was stressful," she said. "To compensate, I drew on everything, read with a passion, escaped into music and threw myself into any art class offered."

Hostetler said she focused on creating drawings of wildlife and portraits of a variety of celebrities from photos, including the cast of "Charlie's Angels" (1976-1981). Her drawings of Jaclyn Smith and Farrah Fawcett are now on display at the Rumriver Art Center.

Hostetler knew she wanted to go to art school after she graduated from Anoka High School in 1975, but she said her parents wanted her to pursue something more "practical."

Instead, after graduation Hostetler got married and had two daughters who reignited her love of imagination and creativity and inspired her to pick up her art again. "I've been teaching myself ever since," she said.

In the 1980s, Hostetler visited the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. "There I met my tribe, and I told myself that someday I'm going to be a part of that and it will be the zenith of my art career," she said.

In 1986, Hostetler purchased a booth and started her business, Mayfaire, at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival where she continues to sell her artwork to this day.

"I didn't know anything about selling my artwork, and it was kind of like a baptism by fire, and I quickly learned how to do it," she said. "I look back now, I was nuts to do that, but I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't ... I learned to become an artist at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival."

Hostetler credits many of the other festival booth owners with helping make her business successful. "They taught me everything, and I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

Hostetler said she has expanded her art skills with the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Previously Hostetler worked only in black-and-white mediums, but after joining the festival she started incorporating colored pencil.

Hostetler also started exploring new subject matters in her artwork that suited the Minnesota Renaissance Festival such as knights, mermaids, elves, fairies and other fantasy characters. She also stopped using photos to draw and began creating artwork from her imagination.

“Art is so much rewarding for me now that I’m not drawing from a photograph, and instead I’m playing with ideas that are running in my head,” she said. “My art ends up being a magical surprise.”

Hostetler’s shop, Mayfaire, will be at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival this year, which runs Aug. 17 through Sept. 29.

Hostetler currently rents space at the Rumriver Art Center, where she creates many of her pieces. She said she continues to learn from other artists at the center.

The Rumriver Art Center gallery is located at 2665 Fourth Ave., Anoka in suite 103A.

To learn more about the Rumriver Art Center, visit rumriverart.com.

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