

Diane English  
Art Statement and Biography

Diane English was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Her family lived directly next door to her maternal grandparents. From an early age she watched her grandfather collect castoff objects to repurpose them. This would later influence her art.

After completing three years and many art courses at Eastern Michigan University, Diane met and married her husband, Bob. She transferred to Wayne State University in Detroit where she completed her elementary degree. Later she earned a master's degree in education and an Early Childhood Endowment at Wayne State University. The thesis was entitled "Art Appreciation in Kindergarten ". The children and Diane enjoyed exploring artists and their works. In fact, they had an art gallery show in the gymnasium to present their works, complete with live music!

After retiring from a twenty-four-year career in teaching at Roseville, Michigan, Diane, and Bob returned to the Thunder Bay River. She was able to collect Lake Huron driftwood, found objects, and treasures to use in art. She followed her Grandfather Remi's influence to put objects together to create structures. Diane is willing to use anything—wood, metal, buttons, natural elements, fabric, paint—if it enhances the artwork. She discovered the rule in art is—there is no rule! Diane joined Northeast Michigan Artists Guild in 2013 and two of her entries were accepted in that year's Besser art show! That encouraged her to keep creating art.

Diane and Bob have summered on the Thunder Bay River for forty-eight years. Their two children are grown and married, and Diane continues to collect and make art. She also began to work with fibers to create her own designs. She was fortunate to meet the Gee's Bend Alabama Quilters at their art show in 2004 in Orlando, Florida. Their work has greatly influenced her style.

Diane would like to thank Bob for his patience and encouragement, Mary Lee Bendolph, a Gee's Bend Quilter for her influence and friendship, and Kris for her advice in problem solving.

### Past Exhibits

2023. Solo Art Show, Besser Museum, Alpena, Michigan

2022. "Best in Show ". Juried Art Show at Besser Museum

2014. August, Thunder Bay Arts Center, Artist of the Month

2019 & 2013. Honorable Mentions at Juried Art Show, Besser Museum

2018, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2012 Exhibits in Besser Museum Juried Art Show

2015. Alcona County Library, Harrison Michigan, Art Show