

## Biography-Nancy Oleksa

Born and raised outside of Youngstown, Ohio, in the small town of McDonald, Nancy Oleksa was involved in the visual arts from her earliest years.

Having her artistic talents recognized early enabled her to develop a portfolio from which she received a full scholarship to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. There she developed her skills and used her degree in Visual Communications to propel her into a position as first a color separator and then an illustrator for the American Greetings Corporation. It was at American Greetings that she diversified her abilities to include calligraphy, character development, writing and design.

It was here in San Diego that Nancy Oleksa's freelance career as an artist was realized. She became illustrator and graphic artist for the cities of Santee and El Cajon as well as lead illustrator for A La Carte Art Studios. Her clients included Bank of America, Century 21, the American Dental Assoc., and many others.

After the birth of her daughter, she realized a love of children's books, and began to use her skills to explore the world of illustration for children. Her art experience grew to include illustration for Cricket Magazine and Athenaeum Books.

Nancy Oleksa is now a popular jurist, workshop and watercolor instructor known for her passion for color and light. She has enjoyed instructing watercolorists in Southern California for over 20 years.