

Working artist and art educator **Miriam Marcus** hails from the Chicago area, relocating from suburban to urban to rural environments through her lifetime and informing her artwork through a relationship with each unique community along the way. Miriam has lived in Lapeer County for over 20 years. Currently she resides in Lum where she has transformed an old church into her studio.

Miriam's academic artistic study began at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. She went on to Wayne State University for a Masters of Art and received her teaching degree and BFA from the University of Michigan, Flint. When she's not in her studio painting, Miriam teaches art at Beecher High School on the north side of Flint.

Passion for music, autumnal rural landscapes and people across the ages are woven through her works. Variations on these themes recur again and again merging figures influenced from 16th and 18th century classical masters into contemporary urban and rural scenes. Miriam's work as a portrait artist at the Renaissance Festival for over 20 years shows up in the detailed forms and faces of these contemporary and historic characters. This exhibit was pulled from Miriam's studio bursting with a vast array of work from over two decades in oil on canvas or board with pastel and charcoal as well as gouache watercolor on rag paper.

Local Color to Miriam seems to be where ever she happens to be in her mind: past, present or future. In high schools, farm fields, ancient forests, urban service station and war zones, Miriam paints around, over and through the scenes serving up something rich and complex for us to ponder compositionally, technically, intellectually and emotionally.