**NITA LELAND BIOGRAPHY**

Nita Leland is a native of Dayton and a graduate of Fairview High School. She obtained her Bachelorof Arts degree from Otterbein College and has continued her studies in "more than 70 classes and workshops in watercolor, drawing, design, and applied arts, including Br. A. Joseph Barrish, Mary Todd Beam, Edward Betts, Glenn Bradshaw, Virginia Cobb, Mario Cooper, Ralph Creager, Bing Davis, Jeanne Dobie, Nita Engle, Homer O. Hacker, Barbara Nechis, Joan Ashley Rothermel, and Edgar Whitney all of whom had a profound influence in my art," according to Nita.



Nita Leland started her art career in 1970 in a YMCA watercolor painting class, and now she travels throughout the United States and Canada as a professional artist, teacher, author, lecturer and juror. Locally, she was an instructor at Riverbend Art Center from 1973-1995 and has been teaching at Hithergreen Center from 2002 to the present. She was an advisor to the North Light Art School home study course from 1986-1992. She was an instructor in Watercolor Painting at Sinclair Community College from 1991-1993. She has been a consultant to manufacturers of art materials and schools from 1983 to the present.

 Designer and manufacturer of Nita Leland™ Color Scheme Selector and a featured artist inExploring Color Workshop videos, Nita is the author of or contributor to the following books and videos:

* *Exploring Color,* 1985;
* *59 More Studio Secrets for the Graphic Artist,* contributor, 1989;
* *The Creative Artist,* 1990;
* *Creative Collage Techniques* (with Virginia Lee Williams), 1994;
* Video One: *Basic Color Mixing,* 1996;
* *Bridging Time and Space: Essays on the Art of Layering*, contributor, SLMM, 1998;
* Video Two: *All about Paint,* 1998;
* *Realistic Collage Step-by-Step,* contributor, 1998;
* *Exploring Color, Revised Edition,* North Light Books, 1998;
* *Keys to Painting Color & Value,* contributor, 2001;
* *Keys to Painting Trees and Foliage,* contributor, 2001;
* *Nita Leland's Exploring Color Coloring Book,* Moonflower Books, 2000;
* *The New Creative Artist,* North Light Books, 2008;
* and her latest book, *Exploring Color Workshop, 30th Anniversary Edition, with New Exercises, Lessons and Step-by-Step Demonstrations,* North Light Books, 2016*.*

 Her informative articles on color and collage have appeared in *The Artist's Magazine; Watercolor Magic; The Artist's Sketchbook; Somerset Studio; Watercolor;* "Color Cues" column for *ColorQ* newsletter; "Watercolor Gazette" (Canada); *Color,* an *American Artist* special publication; and *Art Materials Today.*

Nita's solo shows include University of Dayton Kennedy Gallery, Miami Valley Hospital, Children's Medical Center, Foxhunt & Frames Gallery, Gallery of Durrel, and Town & Country Fine Art Gallery. She has exhibited with Brown Baggers and other small group shows for over 20 years. She has had more than 200 paintings accepted in juried shows since 1973, and won more than 40 awards. Her work is in many hospitals and private homes and in several corporations throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Nita wrote in her Artist Statement: "The changing light of day and the moods it creates are the foundations of my watercolors. My paintings usually start with a color idea, then evolve into compositions in which color is the primary subject. To me, art is a synthesis of my personal feelings, the subject or colors that inspire me and my materials and techniques. Serenity and simplicity are my primary goals. My goal as a teacher and author is to help other artists achieve their goals. My primary focus is on my students, providing a fun and comfortable environment where they can advance their individual creative skills within an energetic community of artists."