

Introducing Local Artist:



Katie Smith

Art Exhibit at the Art Circle Public Library in February

Katie Smith, a resident of Fairfield Glade, is the featured Artist for the month of February at the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville. Katie's art will be on display in all three of the library's art galleries until February 28th. Katie will host a "Meet the Artist" reception in the Cumberland Meeting Room on Tuesday, February 7th from 4:00 to 6:00 p. m. All are invited.

Katie is a visual artist using pastels and acrylics to create art that reflects her inner emotions. She has been creating art since the late 1980's. She earned a degree with honors in Studio Art from Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1995. In her coursework, Ms. Smith demonstrated skill in a large variety of media but after graduation she specialized in pastels, acrylics & pottery. Her art has been recognized with awards in competition with artists with and without disabilities and has been displayed in many businesses, homes, churches and government offices in Atlanta and more recently in Tennessee.

Katie Smith suffered a brain stem stroke when she was 15 years old. As a result of the stroke, she has considerable disabilities that would normally inhibit the creation of visual art. However, due largely to her inner spirit, her disabilities are not reflected in the quality of her art. In fact, in an article she wrote for **Stroke Smart** magazine, Katie said, ". . . art was the gift that stroke gave me." Because she cannot communicate verbally, Katie uses colors and flowing shapes to communicate her inner feelings. It is often easy to tell if Katie was happy, sad or angry when her art was created. Regardless of the underlying mood, Katie's art always reflects beauty.