

# ArtStory

Pursuing quality of life.

## Debra Clemente

### Genre:

Oil Paint

### Proud Moment:

“Sunshine Grows in Kansas” hangs behind the Kansas Governor’s desk, and is part of the Kansas Governor’s office permanent collection.

**H**er trowel spreads a thin layer of paint across the canvas, leaving behind a swath of green. Next comes yellow. Smoothing, scraping, and scratching, the trowel stays hard at work. A field of sunflowers emerges. This is how Debra Clemente often works to express vibrant, energetic, “singing” impressions from memory. She credits her education and years of experience for her skill. Her love for artistic expression, however, took root long before her first art class.

Born in Ottawa, Kansas, Debra’s family moved to Wichita when she was six years old.

Her childhood best friend was the daughter of artist Bill Harrison, a professional painter. They spent many hours playing together in his “roving studio,” whether it was in their dining room, living room, or other areas in the house. “I would have been content to just sit and watch him all day, every day,” says Debra, “I didn’t realize until recently what a gift that early art exposure was to me. I learned it was a possibility for me.”

Debra earned a bachelor’s degree in visual communications from the University of Kansas. She and her husband made their home in Lawrence, raising two boys there.

She never paints sitting down, and she rarely gives up on a painting. “If I sat down,” says Debra, “I would get picky about the details.



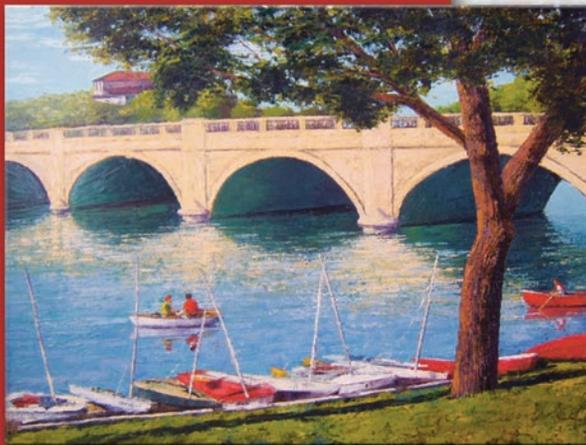
I need to move back and forth. When I’m in the middle of a painting it is difficult to stop, to let it sit. If I left my mobile phone in my basement studio, I would sometimes send one of my sons down to go get it. If I went down, I might spend three more hours there trying to finish a painting.”

Debra and her husband are now empty nesters; their boys are off in the world. She sees it as a new opportunity. “My skills have developed over the years,” says Debra. “This is my time. I’m painting where I am now, Midwest landscapes, in a new way, a fresh interpretation.”

You can view Debra’s paintings online at her gallery, [www.artistDeb.com](http://www.artistDeb.com).



*“My skills have developed over the years. This is my time.”  
–Debra Clemente*



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