

ARTIST STATEMENT

“Going green” and preserving nature through art!

Founded by a love of nature, I seek to immortalize the beauty of butterflies with this unique art form. The lovely, winged creatures featured in my BUTTERFLIGHTS have been carefully preserved and arranged in airtight cases to appear as they might in actual flight.

It is important to note that these beauties have been farm-raised on “butterfly farms” and are allowed to complete their natural lifecycles. The farms are located in tropical climates such as Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica, Africa and Indonesia where they provide significant income for desperately poor natives. Instead of clearing virgin rainforests, the natives work to sustain it. It is a “win, win situation!”

The process of incorporating butterflies into artwork is centuries old and begins with preserving the actual butterflies. I use only museum-quality specimens and no endangered species. Each butterfly must first be rehydrated in a relaxing chamber utilizing water and special chemicals. After absorbing the moisture for a few days it is laid to rest on a spreading board where its wings are carefully pinned into place using paper strips. It will then dry for a period of two to four weeks. Upon removal, the wings are reinforced with glue on the underneath. The butterflies are then mounted on acrylic rods of varied heights and finally sealed in airtight cases where they will last for decades. Because this is such a time-consuming process, I am only able to take part in a handful of fine art shows every year.

I am proud of the fact that selling my artwork to individuals, galleries and fine stores not only serves to enrich the lives of my customers, but aids conservation across our planet.

Marsha Salzenstein
BUTTERFLIGHTS
70 Oak Ridge Point
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 263-8438