

Jill Ellen Chambers

About the Art

When very young, I was given two gifts that have shaped me in ways that, I suppose, the givers would never have anticipated.

The first was given me when I was four years old. It was a windy summer's day and I was riding my bike down the sidewalk near my home in Suttons Bay, Michigan. A tall blue-haired lady waved me down. Smiling, she handed me a Christmas box filled with a dozen delicately painted china bells. I have been collecting ornaments ever since.

The second was on my seventh birthday. My parents dug me a small pond at the bottom of the hill behind our house. There I built villages. Clam shells became carriages pulled by delicate twig ponies. Horsetail grass became the logs for moss-roofed cabins while tiny birch bark canoes bobbed beside lily pad docks. After a bad storm, I got to start my pond village all over again, complete with new houses, new characters and new stories.

A graphic designer turned book illustrator, these gifts have always inspired me. And in the fall of 2012 I began my own line of ornaments.

The Process

My art evolves from rough sketch to Illustrator file to laser cut birch. Once cut, I finish each piece using a variety of materials including watercolors, wire, found objects, handmade paper, moss, and leafing.

Inspired by nature, my work is illustrative in style. Celebrating beauty and often having a whimsical theme, I hope to make the audience smile. Most pieces are signed, limited editions.