

## artists making a difference

Linda Wesner



*Delaware Crossing I*, by Linda Wesner. Colored pencil, 8" x 16".

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Dear **Art Calendar**,

Yes, I'm making a difference in my community of Delaware County, Ohio, which continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the state and nation.

Located just north of Columbus, Ohio, the county is on the cutting edge of the boomburbs. Vast tracts of fertile family farms are quickly being swallowed up for housing developments and commercial and medical complexes.

What am I doing as an artist to make the community aware of this rapid change to their daily surroundings. Since we moved here five years ago, I have been photographing abandoned farms, tree-lined roads, and farm fields and then using my reference shots as inspiration for my colored pencil drawings and paintings.

I have had several shows with this "Disappearing Landscapes" theme, beginning with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in 2006. In August 2008, my solo show, "Disappearing Landscapes of Delaware County," was part of our Bicentennial celebration at Ross Art Museum, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. For the July 4th Bicentennial concert, a big screen presentation of my reference photos with the resulting artwork was shown while the symphony played Copeland.

In local art festivals, I draw visitors into my booth with a "Grabber" drawing of a local landmark, asking, "Where is this?" Along with a small display of photos of abandoned buildings or fields, this draws local people who have little interest in art — but do have stories to tell. I invite their input for my mission with a questionnaire offering a free print for their suggestions of a threatened landmark. But most often, they are eager to tell me immediately of a favorite place that would "make a good painting."

Trying to capture these vanishing landscapes incorporates my love of exploring history and making art. My work has been included in many national shows and won numerous awards, including The *American Artist Magazine* Award of Excellence in 2007 at The Colored Pencil Society of America's 15th International Exhibition, Strathmore Art Gallery, Bethesda. I am represented in galleries in Ohio, Florida, New York and New Jersey. You can see more of my work at [www.lawesner.com](http://www.lawesner.com).

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Are you an artist trying to make a difference in your community? If so, let us know! E-mail us at [KHall@ArtCalendar.com](mailto:KHall@ArtCalendar.com), along with a link to your Web site/s, and tell us a bit about what you're doing.

## We're Here to Help

If you have a comment, suggestion or career question, send it directly to any one of the **Art Calendar** writers or to the Editor at [KHall@ArtCalendar.com](mailto:KHall@ArtCalendar.com).

You may also write to **Art Calendar**, 1500 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835. If we choose to print your letter in the magazine, we'll contact you, so be sure to include a phone number and/or e-mail address.

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Be sure to read about our **ArtScuttlebutt.com** Member of the Month, **Steven Walker**, on page 44.



*Fordson Tractor*, by Steven Walker. Oil on canvas, 11" x 14".

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