

**2009 Featured Artist - Phil Elbling**

I was a nuclear chemist by education but spent the majority of my working career as an Information Technology Executive with a major computer manufacturer. I discovered my artistic self during my retirement and have been painting for the last 8 years. I am currently in the Certificate for Painting Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where my focus is on acrylic abstracts.

Abstract art has always interested me, and I am especially drawn to the works of Jackson Pollack, Cy Twombly and Joan Mitchell. My art focuses on the themes of color and abstraction and is an effort to show vitality in life.

I view my art as random pattern, expressing my ideas with a rejection of constraint and no premeditation of thought. When I start painting I often do not know where it's going to lead me. I allow the colors to dictate the direction.

