

Christine Alexander

Life changed unexpectedly one day. Flying up the road towards New York from our North Carolina home, our old SUV's engine blew, clouding the air with white vapor. Belatedly arriving in East Meredith, New York, in a rented van, we unloaded tools and supplies for renovating a recently purchased farmhouse bought by my husband, Larry Bennett, and me, as a vacation home. The next night, the 150 year old timber structure burned to the ground. Instead of organizing an exciting year's project, the next day was spent staring in disbelief at charred remains. We returned home to find that my husband's long career had been, without warning, terminated.

Surprisingly, misfortune rallied an integral part of myself: the making of art.

A few years earlier, my graphic design studio closed when the imperatives of computers overtook the field. I need to work with my hands and heart to make designs and art.

Larry and I quickly fell in love with the serenely rolling Catskill foothills. So we lived in a small silver camper parked in a field, through a frigid and snowy winter while building a new home. Possessions stored and friends and family faraway enforced strict introspection. Water to be hauled in, one pot to cook with, no television, the merciful distractions of normal life lacking.

Almost two decades later, our house looks down the hollow. For me, it contains a small north facing studio, illuminated by windows on three sides. I am most at home in this space and the surrounding gardens and fields. Always for me, the natural world inspires awe and love. And here is where I make art again. My environment nurtures my obsession with color, form, and movement.

Today, some aspects of our self-imposed isolation reminds me of the earlier time in my life, which proved to be fertile ground for a creative spirit.

While I miss our robust art world, friends, and family, having uninterrupted time is itself a treasure.

Painting and collage take most of my time.

If you would like to see more of my work, please contact me to arrange a visit.