

# 'So many things beg to be painted'

**"If I could, I'd paint every day,"** Cincinnati, OH Branch 43 member **Cindy Crofoot** says.

As a child, she learned the basics of artwork from her mother. Soon after she began carrying mail in 1994, Crofoot took the next step by taking adult painting classes after work.

The carrier, who paints with oil, started with portrait painting and has expanded her repertoire to include landscape and still-life. She enjoys "plein air painting," where artists paint outside in natural lighting, and attends "paint outs," where artists do just that.

Crofoot gets her ideas for subjects from a variety of sources. "It's something I think of often," she said. "I'm inspired by looking around—color, light." She brings her art supplies with her to most places, just in case inspiration strikes.

"So many things beg to be painted," the carrier says. "Art is its own language and there is so much to be said."

Crofoot had her first solo art show in 1998 at a gallery in Cincinnati, and since then, her artwork has been displayed at galleries throughout Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. She generally shows her work four or five times a year.

She has entered and won awards in several competitions, including one by the Oil Painters of America. Crofoot also teaches workshops.

The carrier is inspired by other artists, notably those she describes as the "old masters": Monet, Rembrandt and John Singer Sargent.

"You can see how they laid down the paint," Crofoot said. "You can feel a lot of energy, the way they felt. [It's a] connection over the centuries."

Laura Robb also has left an impression on her; Crofoot describes Robb's pieces as "real, impressionistic, lush and beautiful." Crofoot has attended two of the artist's workshops.

Of course, as a letter carrier, Crofoot also gets inspiration from her daily rounds. "There's always something," she said. "There's this lady on my route that has this beautiful long-haired cat." She's taken a photo of the pet and plans to paint it.

Branch 43 President **David Kennedy**, who has carried mail with Crofoot for years, said he has seen a lot of her art. "She's actually used my children as subjects," he said.



Musicians inspired Crofoot to do a series of pieces, two of which include Kennedy's children, Mariah and Caleb.

It's "art about other artists," she said. "Singers belting out a tune, dancers, people playing music, piano, guitar—I wanted to show a variety of things that people do to express themselves."

Crofoot's piece, "Mariah," featuring Kennedy's daughter playing the violin, was showcased in *American Art Collector* magazine, which is written for art collectors, galleries and painters. The carrier described being included in the publication as "one of my proudest moments."

She's also won an award from the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati for "Sonatina," a painting of Mariah's brother, Caleb, playing a piano. "He's got this look of intense concentration," Crofoot said.

The carrier has immersed herself in a number of other projects. One is a public art project for the city of Aurora, IN, called "Making Faces in Aurora." This large-scale portrait mural project transforms old buildings into life-size works of art.

She's also created a set of prints painted from scenes at a local brewery, which she sells to raise money to build a park in Aurora.

The carrier plans to retire in about a year, and says she plans to continue to teach workshops and classes, promote her portrait work, and take classes to keep up her skills.

Once a letter carrier, always a letter carrier: "It would be really cool to do something that would end up on a stamp," Crofoot said.

Visit [aestheticexpressionsbycindy.com](http://aestheticexpressionsbycindy.com) to learn more about Crofoot's artwork. **PR**



**Top: "Sonatina"**  
**Above: "Sun and Shadow"**

**Opposite page: Cindy Crofoot shows off "Mariah" and its inclusion in *American Art Collector* magazine.**