

# Susan Aitken & Elizabeth Aitken

## Susan Aitken, Teacher

I have illustrated twelve children's books for the Centering Corporation in addition to teaching, and have four children who I often use as models for my paintings and illustrations.



Watercolor is my primary medium; I love the challenge of having to leave the white areas, and the surprise of colors flowing together to create various effects. I tend to use that which is around me and with which I am most familiar as subject matter. No matter how many times I attempt to delve into abstraction or non-representation, I am continually drawn back to realism. Like the illustrations, my work usually has some narrative content

beyond just the subject matter, leaving it up to the viewer to determine any personal significance.



*Susan Aitken is a secondary art teacher at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton, Michigan.*

## Elizabeth Aitken, Student

Even as a little girl, I loved doing art of all kinds. I plan to study to be an art teacher at Western Michigan University in the fall and am currently working to build my portfolio. When faced with the challenge of producing work with a personal style, I was drawn to what I do every day during practically every class—doodling! I found that these elaborate design schemes up and down my notes were actually great inspiration for larger pieces. So, I began thinking how these doodles could be expanded and woven in various ways—as values, textures, abstraction, and enlarged into single images. The media for these



pieces is primarily pen and ink and colored pencil, since these media lend themselves to the intricate designs.



*Elizabeth Aitken is a student at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton, Michigan.*



**Call for Entries:** *SchoolArts* is recognizing the work of high-school students and teachers from around the country, and we are looking for more art to be featured. Please send images of your work and the work of one of your students, along with 100-word artist's statements, on a CD to Nancy Walkup, Editor, *SchoolArts*, 2223 Parkside Drive, Denton, TX 76201.