

AT HOME

Sophisticated Living in Southwest Ohio

At Home August/September 2011

At Home Photos by Niki Jahns

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STUDIO SPACE

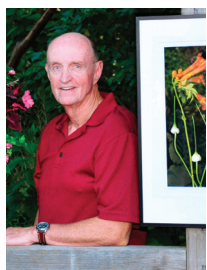
Featuring Doug McLarty | Signature Focus Photography

Who are you?

Owner of McLarty Communications, Inc., a public relations consulting firm in Xenia, OH. Retired Air Force Colonel. I have photographed landscapes and portraits for the past 40 years. Much of my portfolio was created using traditional black and white film. I now make digital images exclusively. Launched my fine art photography business, Signature Focus, in 2006. My clients include individual collectors, art consultants, designers, and architects around the country.

What type of work do you do? What do you create?

I still take lots of photos with a camera but my current series of botanical images (www.signaturefocus.com) are made with a scanner. I design work on a scanner and with one pass of the light bar the image is created. A Chicago interior designer recently commented that my botanical images reflect the "instincts of a conjurer." Who knew? The essential ingredients in my photographs are selecting the right mix of nature, strong design, image simplicity, and lighting.



What is your inspiration?

Nature's often startling and intricate designs; British sculptor, environmentalist and photographer Andy Goldsworthy and architect Frank Gehry; great design; images that haunt my memory; music with power and passion; and creative people in the arts, business, and education.

Where can people find your work?

On-line, at website: www.signaturefocus.com. I exhibit locally at the Cannery Art and Design Center in Dayton. My work can also be viewed



in Cincinnati and in Naples, Fl. Recently several of my pieces were selected for installation in the Ohio Governor's offices and residence so if you happen to be up in Columbus drop-in and tell Gov. Kasich Doug McLarty sent you. My next major exhibit will be at the Guren Art Gallery, Cleveland Botanical Garden, March 2–April 15, 2012.

Tell us something unique about yourself?

My brother, Ron McLarty, is a stage, screen and TV actor, author (*The Memory of Running*, *Art in America* and *Traveler*) and well known 'Books-On-Tape' narrator for authors Richard Russo, Danielle Steel, David Baldacci, and Stephen King to name a few.

Favorite tool?

A hammer. When in doubt I get the hammer.

What is unique about your studio space?

It is characterized by lots of pollen, small insects that have dropped off my subject matter and the unspoken message for visitors to watch where they are walking.

Any words of advice for aspiring artists?

Be driven, creative, willing to actively engage your audience and...keep a powerful, action oriented Plan B close by.

What is your favorite thing about living in southwest Ohio?

You mean after everyone's top four, "festivals, fireworks, food and First Friday's?"

It would have to be the intelligent, interesting, creative, energized and, above all, nice people I meet everyday.