



113 East Iron Salina, Kansas 67401

## Deon Smalley

Deon is from the midwest, born and raised in Superior, Nebraska. Her interests in a diversity of expression in different forms of art began when she was relatively young. At the age of eight, she had become formally involved in the development of ceramic works under the tutelage of artists in her home town. Her inherent talents developed rapidly resulting in her winning a Best of Show at the state level when she was 12. This recognition of her work at a young age proved highly motivational. Deon continued to develop and refine her talents through her teen years and into adulthood. These efforts included both informal and formal training in art. While taking classes at the Art Council of Dickinson County, Deon became acquainted with Jan Neal who subsequently became a private instructor, mentor, and friend. During this period Deon's primary interests and expressive focus turned to painting – particularly watercolors – and pottery. Those areas are where most of her work is done today. However, trying new things is always a possibility as evidenced by Deon's recent works in copper sculpture. Over the last 27 years, Deon has lived and created her work in Salina, Kansas.