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Debbie Littledeer

Beth Bissmeyer

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Since she was a young girl, Debbie Littledeer has been creating art in the mountains of North Carolina where she was born and raised. She decided she wanted to be an artist when she was just seven years old, finding inspiration from her parents—her father, a cotton mill weaver who loved to draw, and her mother, a homemaker whose creativity and imagination fostered the very same in Littledeer. She found encouragement to create when her father let her use his grown-up art supplies instead of crayons.

Years of keeping journals full of drawings and writings led to Littledeer studying at Mars Hill College in North Carolina where she graduated *cum laude* in 1980 with a B.A. in Studio Art and Art History. Littledeer began designing and making silkscreen prints, also known as serigraphs, full time in 1986 and has been a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild ever since. She has studied at Penland School of Crafts and John C. Campbell Folk School. Nearly forty galleries and shops represent her work throughout the Southeast.

Littledeer now lives with her husband and daughter in Celo, North Carolina, on the north side of the Black Mountain range, the mountains she saw in the distance from her childhood home. She works out of a studio behind her home, tucked into the woods, where she creates beautiful prints based on the nature that surrounds, comforts, lightens, and energizes her. The prints in this issue are serigraphs, in which each individual layer of color has been applied one at a time. In addition to designing and creating serigraphs, Littledeer has recently turned her attention to making hand-watercolored linoleum block prints. More of Debbie Littledeer's work, as well as prints and notecards for sale, can be found at her website <http://www.debbielittledeer.com>. Through her wonderful creativity and appreciation of the mountains, Littledeer has captured the region in a unique way that helps viewers see the world in a beautiful new light. We are deeply grateful to Debbie Littledeer for the contributions of her talents to this issue.