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## **Mary Walker**

Mom's Marvels

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## **Artist's Statement**

Mary Walker was born in Ontario and spent her pre school years at the Pigeon River border between Canada & United States. She grew up in Dorion Ontario and completed her schooling in Port Arthur Ontario. She enjoys detailed and intricate work. She discovered Quilling in 1974 while visiting Florida. She attended workshops & a new interest was born. A young family and her life work in the dental field put a halt to this delicate pastime. Retired now in the Okanagan she is pursuing her passion for quilling and combining it with her love of nature. A few pieces of this lost art from the 13<sup>th</sup> century can be found in museums in Europe and the eastern United States, however only a very few, and even less 3 dimensional work was completed or remains This has inspired her to establish an interest in quilling through her own designs and teaching. Her sense of humour is reflected in many of the pieces, (An Eagle) for yes, a golf award for an Eagle, Mary's holds a golf ball. Mary uses mirrors for light and depth adding the illusion of movement She has traveled through Europe, Africa , China, Alaska, Canada & the United Sates. These experiences have stimulated her mind to delve into other medium, such as cloth, fur, thread, paint and music. She enjoys nature, family & quiet. This peacefulness is reflected in her work so that you also may find peace profound.

## **Process**

My quilling is reminiscent of the nun's paper filigree of the 16th century that is found in American Museums and Prince Albert museum in London England. They covered boxes, religious adornments and tea caddies. Whereas I produce individual items. I quill embellishments for scrapbooks, invitations, and announcements. Jewelry, stem glass charms and cards are among some of the simpler items I make. I have also taken this art form a little further and specialize in three dimensional works of art. These reflect the world around us--animals, music, nature, hobbies etc.

This paper filigree, as it is known by, is produced by shaping specially cut paper 1/8inch wide into various shapes to combine into the finished art. Occasionally I use up to 1/4 inch wide paper. The lengths vary from 1 inch to 8 inches long. Each piece of this paper is hand rolled on a tool or in my fingers producing the exact tension desired for the shape I require. This requires patience and a gentle touch. I teach classes in quilling and am trying to revive it to its original form of art.