



Resident Profile: Lola Earvin

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Lola Earvin has a knack for art of all kinds...some might call it talent, but she simply calls it a combination of blessing and perseverance.

“I pray about everything and I believe in determination and education, so whatever I want to be or do I just ask and all they can do is say yes or no,” Earvin said. “And even if I don’t get it, I feel good about it. I would feel bad about it if I never tried.”

Earvin started in photography at Forest Park Community College where she discovered a passion for art.

“I enjoyed photography so much, and I liked doing special effects. I liked doing pictures where you stop and wonder ‘how did she do that?’” Earvin said.

When she started having knee problems and eventually underwent knee surgery, Earvin looked to try a new and challenging form of art—wood burning, which she learned all on her own.

“I wasn’t able to afford to buy a headboard for my bed so what I did was I said well I can make that—so I made it by hand,” Earvin said. “They all thought ‘Oh Lola can’t make that’ and I said ‘Oh yes I can, I’m gonna make that.’”

After going to the hardware store for wood and coming up with a plan, Earvin transformed a plain piece of wood into an intricate headboard.

“I didn’t want just that plain piece of wood against my wall so I engraved two angels on the side and in the middle an angel’s praying hands with flowers all around,” Earvin said. “I looked at it and I did it and it turned out really great.”

It was some of her other woodwork, that was recently displayed at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. Not only has her woodwork been displayed, but also many of her pieces have been placed in schools, galleries, and exhibits around the St. Louis area as well as in New York.

One of the highlights of Earvin’s art career was winning the People’s Choice Award at a showing in which she entered her picture of a barnyard that utilized special lighting effects.

“I was so shocked and stunned [I had won], I could not believe it, I said ‘Really?’ they said ‘Yeh!’” Earvin said.

As computers became a more popular means of photography special effects, Earvin was encouraged to get a computer, but struggled to afford it. Despite not having a computer, she went ahead and enrolled in a Computer Arts Studio at Meramec Community College.

“I’m sitting up there, I don’t know a thing about computers, but I was so fascinated by the software and what you could do with the computer...If I want to I could put you in Paris!” Earvin said. “The professor said ‘Lola, you’re my only student who stays here until closing time’ because I would go into the computer room to work on the different things.”

Earvin now considers herself blessed to have found Covenant Place, a place with many activities including her personal favorite, art. She has helped teach card-making classes and has displayed her work at resident art shows.

“Everybody that did art was able to display their work and we communicated about what we do and talked about art,” Earvin said.

Through it all she continues to remain true to her passion for art.

“I’m the type of person who believes I can do whatever—if I can see it in my mind I can do it,” Earvin said. “I would sacrifice myself for art, you see art is everything.”