

Smith initially met the Hannells when she was in high school and was impressed by Hazel's talent and energy. Hannell, until the end of her life, lived in Oregon with Smith.

All who met Hannell recall her fondly and consider her to be a truly legendary figure who touched many lives through her example and beautiful art.

Pines Village Retirement Communities wishes to recognize the individuals and agencies that made a collection of Hannell's works and their display happen. They are the Chesterton Art Center; Gregg Hertzlieb, Gloria Ruff, and interns Han Xu, Lara Kilarski, Megan Lamboley, Emily Ozga, and Elsa Rosenfelder of the Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso University; Bernard Konrady and Konrady Plastics, Inc.; Joe Mullet; Chuck and Karen Parsons; Harriet Rex Smith; and Katharine Wehling.

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*Tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted to continue the collection and preservation of Hazel Hannell's work.
Pines Village Retirement Communities, Inc., is a nonprofit organization.
Our mission is to Celebrate Life by enriching the lives of older adults.*



THE
HAZEL HANNELL
COLLECTION

The Hazel Hannell Collection– was unveiled on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at Pines Village Retirement Communities. Following the legendary Porter County artist’s death at 106, Pines Village acquired over 18 never exhibited watercolor paintings that were preserved and framed under the direction of Valparaiso University Brauer Museum of Art Director/Curator, Gregg Hertzlieb .

“We are so excited to share this collection with the public and make a permanent home for Hazel’s works, said Laurie Mullet, CEO of Pines Village Retirement Communities. “At Pines Village we actively seek opportunities to foster the promotion of positive aging. Hazel emulated that through her life. We hope this collection lends itself to the continual promotion of the arts and contributory aging.”

This permanent gallery is open to the public at Pines Village, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso, Indiana. Hours for viewing the collection are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information call 219/465-1591.

Cover Images:
Untitled, 1987
Watercolor on paper
Collection of Pines Village Retirement Communities

Untitled, 1989
Watercolor on paper
Collection of Pines Village Retirement Communities

Hazel Hannell (1895-2002) was a beloved and longtime resident of Porter County who passed away at the age of 106. Born in La Grange, Illinois, Hannell (née Johnson) was the daughter of a college-educated mother who also painted and a father who was an Alabama-born farmer. She was a prolific painter, creating possibly more than 10,000 paintings in her lifetime, and was also active in the mediums of printmaking and ceramics; her pottery in fact was sold throughout the United States. Hannell’s last painting was a floral that she completed when she was 103.

Hannell and her husband Vaino (Vin) Mathies Seth Hannell (1896-1964) were Chicagoans who were educated at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The two of them spent weekends at the Furnessville home/studio that Vin designed, and the Depression caused them to leave the city to live full time at the Furnessville location. Their many Chicago artist friends, modern like the Hannells in their art and sensibilities (Hazel preferred pants to skirts), would visit them at this residence. Both Hazel and Vin were active in environmental causes and sought throughout their lives to preserve the Dunes.

In 1988, Hannell grew tired of living alone after her husband’s passing and moved to the Greensprings area of Oregon to live with artist and longtime Porter County resident Harriet Rex Smith.