

# MAUREEN PARKUS writes:

## My Inspiration for taking up Art

When I left school my first job was at Conran Furniture Company working as a junior for Terence Conran (then unknown). He was impressed by my artistic ability and offered to sponsor me to attend St. Martin's College of Art in London for five years. When I discussed this with my parents they were concerned I would mix with the wrong company and advised me not to accept the offer. They said I would be better off working in an office. I declined Terence Conran's offer and eventually left his company.

In 1998 I contracted stage 3 breast cancer and during my treatment attended an art therapy day at a support group. I thoroughly enjoyed dabbling with paint and promised myself when my chemotherapy course had finished I would take up art which I subsequently did. I have found art to be very therapeutic and believe this aided my recovery. I have been completely free of cancer for thirteen years. I have advised other people with cancer to take up creative pastimes such as art as an aid to their recovery and wellbeing.

Several years ago I attended jewellery making classes too and enjoy being creative with jewellery. I am also a Diet Consultant seeing clients at home helping them to lose weight successfully.

