

remembers how—when their daughter, Leandra, was two months old—she carried her to classes in a basket.

Many of the teaching staff were not only artists but came from all walks of life. In those days, the school did not check the credentials of the faculty, who had backgrounds ranging from doctors to union leaders. They would give nightly, motivational demonstrations on crafts as the children soaked up the art and creative atmosphere. One of the highlights of the Penland experience for Lisa was blowing glass with the renowned artist, Dale Chihuly.

Before deciding on pursuing a life in art, Don spent two years in pre-med at Hiram College. "My greatest contribution to medicine was that I did not practice it," said Don of this experience.

An important period in Don's life was the time he spent at Bowling Green State University as an artist in residence. From 1965-1971, he worked under university president, William Jerome. Don considers the time spent there as an important learning curve for him, coping with difficult people and tough working conditions, while constructing a concrete mural to be placed on the terrace of the Bowling Green library. However, Jerome recognized Don's talents as Don was realizing the challenges involved in commissioned work.

In 1970, Don Drumm was scared. There was talk of closing the high level bridge that housed his foundry. Don spent long, hard hours toiling in hot metal so that he would have the freedom to do what his passion drove him to do. He knew that he had to have a

plan, and that meant that he would have to move his business. So Drumm purchased property on Crouse Street with which to build their gallery and open his foundry. The bridge actually closed eight years later. It was simply fortuitous.

But the move forced him to make changes that would greatly impact their lives and future. Little did they know that years later, their gallery would be recognized as one of the top ten art galleries in the country by The Rosen



Group and *Niche* magazine.

Don and Lisa Drumm will tell you that their best creations are their daughters—Leandra, Elisa and Tamula—who were brought up in a nurturing and loving yet creative atmosphere.

As a successful artist today, Leandra remembers wonderful summers at Penland and how she worked on projects with her dad. With its amazing staff of artists teaching in many media including ceramics, weaving and enameling, there was a form of art for everyone. "The glass blowing studio would constantly throw out the remains of the glass, and we would collect them for marble collections," said Leandra. "[Our time at Penland is] one of our fondest

memories because if we weren't working with art, we were busy picking berries in the mountains or watching plays."

Leandra won first place in the International First Night poster contest for her design for Akron. She is quite prolific in designing etched glass bowls, glassware, pewter wall hangings, ornaments and other home décor. She recalls that her parents were supportive and encouraging with her art as she was growing up. "I tend to be whimsical in

my art," said Leandra, "and I credit my dad for that because he had a toy shelf upstairs that none of us were allowed to touch. And any chance [I or my sisters got], we played with them. We still have—in our adult lives—some fantasy, whimsical art and toys."

Leandra married Tim Benninghoff, and together they are partners in

Leandra Drumm Designs, whose studio and offices are in the Drumm Gallery complex.

Elisa is the middle daughter and also found her passion in the arts. For awhile she worked in textiles as a fabric designer. After a change in medium, Elisa is now working in painted wooden wall hangings and collaborates with her father in these projects; Don casts pewter heads for her angel designs. She sells her work via a rep and at trade shows and resides in Littleton, Massachusetts.

Summers at Penland School of Crafts were among some of her treasured memories. She loved being exposed to the country's top artists as their teachers. During a family vacation in