

ARTISANS



Jane of all trades

As an actress, Jane Seymour has been captivating audiences for years. Now see Jane in one of her best roles ever— that of artist

BY REBECCA J. RAZO

(Above) Jane Seymour's impressive resumé includes that of home décor designer. Here, she poses atop Blue Harbor bedding from her collection. For more information, visit janeseymourhome.com.

(Right) A watercolor from Jane Seymour's *Wine Women* series illustrates her talent for creating art that is both expressive and fun.

You know her as Dr. Michaela Quinn from the television series, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*; Christopher Reeve's soul mate Elise McKenna in *Some-where in Time*; and, more recently, the flirtatious Kathleen "Kitty Cat" Cleary in the blockbuster comedy *Wedding Crashers*. As a multiple Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actress, few can boast as impressive a breadth of talent as Jane Seymour. But despite her distinguished repertoire that spans film, television and Broadway, acting is just one of Jane's myriad achievements. On any given day, you'll also find her in roles that include home décor and fashion designer, author, speaker, dancer, producer, philanthropist, wife, mother and artist. In short, there's little Jane hasn't done—and hasn't done with grace, charm and elegance, qualities also manifested in her art.

Jane's fondness for drawing began in childhood, but it wasn't until she was an adult that she fully connected to her artistic side, devoting herself as deeply to this craft as she does her other disciplines. "Painting began as a healing process for me. I had been through a difficult personal time and went back to watercolors as an adult. I always challenge myself. Midway through a painting, I sometimes get angry when I can't capture what I want, but I have discovered that if I persevere I can often make a good painting in the end."

Although Jane only focuses on completing one piece at a time, her parallel pursuits in acting, design, dance and writing "are completely integrated in what I am creating at the moment," she says. "For example, the *Woman in a Red Dress* painting that I did to promote the Women's Healthy Heart Initiative was inspired

by my background in dance. I knew that the way the fabric moved on the dancer's body would create the emotional quality I was after. My experience as a colorist influences not only my paintings, but the home décor, textiles and fashions I design. I think one's taste in fine art is reflected in how one decorates and dresses. We are all expressive artists in our lifestyles."

While Jane enjoys creating art in her home-based Malibu studio, she also finds artistic inspiration at St. Catherine's Court, her 14th-century country manor in Bath, England. "I love to paint and sculpt at St. Catherine's Court. It is a very spiritual, inspiring place. Everyone feels the magic when they visit."

Jane's art also reflects inspiration she finds in her favorite painters, including Marc Chagall and John Singer Sargent, as well as nature, people and flowers. "My paintings of flowers are really portraits. Flowers are like faces. The curl of a petal can be as expressive as the curve of a cheek."

For all of Jane's artistic diversity, watercolor remains her favorite medium. "For me, watercolor is almost a Zen experience," she reflects. "I love it because of its immediacy and sense of urgency, and for its translucent quality. It quickly tells me where I am going with a painting."

Indeed, Jane's love of watercolor and range of creativity are fully expressed in her *Wine Women* series, a collection that illustrates her whimsical side. "There is such a charming synergism between the curves of a wine glass and a woman. And there are other delightful similarities. Wine is at its best when mature. It is full-bodied, rich in color, smooth yet balanced with acidity. Just like a woman..." she says in language that could be self-descriptive.

So what could possibly be next on the horizon for this accomplished actress, wife, mother, designer, dancer, author and artist? "To become better at all of the above!" she says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MULTI-TALENTED JANE SEYMOUR, VISIT JANESEYMOUR.COM.

