Janis Price (pictured above with Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich) was born in Nashport, Ohio in 1933, and developed an interest in art when she was very young. She later found that raising a family of three and working part-time left little opportunity for creative efforts. When her children were grown, she returned to her first love - art. She had no trouble deciding what to paint. Even as a child she had been fascinated by the tales told by her grandmother and great-grandmother of pioneer days in North Dakota and Oregon and had been a sharp observer of the Ohio countryside in which she grew up. Home life and the ways of the Ohio Amish have provided her with particularly fruitful inspiration, and many of her paintings illustrate 19th and early 20th century life as seen through the eyes of her grandparents.

Janis currently resides in Newport, Ohio and has attracted nationwide attention for her folk-style artwork.
“Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor’s Residence,” is a new program created by Ohio’s First Lady Karen W. Kasich which celebrates the work of Ohio artists by showcasing works by an Ohio artist selected by the First Lady. The program enhances the ongoing partnership between the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden and the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). Since 1985 the OAC has assisted in placing artwork by Ohio artists and Ohio cultural institutions in the Governor’s Residence and throughout the Governor’s offices located in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. The “Spotlight” program will offer quarterly focus shows which will highlight an artist whose work will be on display at the Governor’s Residence. All Ohio artists are eligible to submit their work for consideration. Quarterly artists will be selected by Mrs. Kasich with assistance by the Ohio Arts Council. Ohio artists interested in submitting work for consideration should contact OAC Individual Artist Program Director, Ken Emerick ken.emerick@oac.state.oh.us for further details. To be eligible for the program the artist cannot be a student enrolled in a degree granting program and must be a resident of the State of Ohio.

About the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden: The house has been the official residence of ten Ohio chief executives and is a showcase of our state’s artistry, culture, industry and landscape. The Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden is a unique and historic home that represents Ohio to a diverse range of visitors. The Ohio Governor’s Residence offers a living exhibition of Ohio history, industry and craftsmanship, while the Heritage Garden strives to educate visitors on the importance of conserving and preserving the natural beauty of our state. To schedule a free tour of the residence call 614/644-7644 or residence@governor.ohio.gov

About the Ohio Arts Council: The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.
Janis Price was born in Nashport, Ohio, in 1933, and developed an interest in art when she was very young. She later found that raising a family of three and working part-time left little opportunity for creative efforts. When her children were grown, she returned to her first love—art. She had no trouble deciding what to paint, for even as a child she had been fascinated by the tales told by her grandmother and great-grandmother of pioneer days in North Dakota and Oregon and had been a sharp observer of the Ohio countryside in which she grew up. Home life and the ways of the Ohio Amish have provided her with particularly fruitful inspiration, and many of her paintings illustrate 19th and early 20th century life as seen through the eyes of her grandparents.

Price’s paintings may be less exacting in detail than the work of some of her contemporaries, but they have a patterned quality that is reminiscent of fabric. Varicolored houses seen against a background of fallen snow remind one of the well-known schoolhouse pattern quilts. It is no wonder that Price has taken to sometimes creating compositions similar to her paintings by cutting out small bits of cloth and sewing them together to create an interior or a landscape.

Janis Price resides and works in Newark, Ohio, sometimes putting in a seven-day week at her art. She has attracted nationwide attention but still remains the unassuming homebody.