

Wind Dancer Studio
Final Messaging
March 15, 2010

HOME

Wind Dancer Studio produces original works of fine art using a variety of mediums:

- Acrylics
- Collage
- Handmade paper
- Oil painting
- Watercolor

Founded in 1986 by artist Pat Michaud-Towery, Wind Dancer Studio is located in Santa Cruz, California within an active artist collective characterized by lively exchanges of ideas. Inspired by the natural world, Wind Dancer Studio's artistic themes include Asian ceramics and gardens, antique glass, bamboo, exotic flowers and plants, Japanese Koi ponds, and Astronomy. Color, format and scale, combinations of media, mastery of subject, and a quirky sense of humor make Wind Dancer Studio artwork unique and special.

The name of the studio is derived from an Apache Indian legend. This legend tells of Wind Dancer, a young warrior, who was born deaf, but could sing magical, wordless songs that brought healing and good weather. He married Bright Rain, a beautiful, young woman whom he rescued when she was being attacked by a wolf.

Wind Dancer was killed during another errand of mercy. A bitter, death-bring winter ensued, but it suddenly and mysteriously ended after Bright Rain started taking solitary walks.

Tribal elders learned Wind Dancer had come back to her in the form of a hummingbird. He wore the same ceremonial costume and war paint he had worn as a man. In fields of spring flowers he would approach her and whisper his magical secrets in her ear. This brought her peace and joy.

Source: www.rubythroat.org

MEET THE ARTIST

Pull Quote:

“I have been an artist since early childhood. My family was very supportive of my early explorations and interests in drawing, painting, and constructions.”

Pat Michaud-Towery

Pat has lived in northern California since 1981. A New Englander by birth and heritage, Pat's early years were spent at the family homestead in rural Massachusetts during the summer. Pat tended to gardens and animals while finding time to paint and draw what she encountered. Winters were spent in studies at the New England School of Art and Design in Boston, Massachusetts.

Pat attended the University of California Santa Cruz, San Jose State University and San Francisco State University to complete graduate studies in Fine Art, Art History. She holds credentials in art, learning differences, and working with the physically handicapped. Over the past 20 years, her teaching experiences have included work with students in Art Appreciation at Hartnell College. She was also an Orthopedically Impaired Specialist for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. As a teacher, she incorporated a variety of art experiences as a vehicle for student learning.

When she's not creating art, Pat enjoys working in her garden, painting with a local plein aire group, reading everything from historical works to well written mystery novels to anything about art, attending theater productions, and corresponding with a widely-scattered group of family members and grandchildren. Her two tabby felines, whom she claims are really "dogs in cat suits," bring great joy to her life and are also models for her series of cat watercolors.

Pat actively participates in local exhibits and is an Open Studios artist. She is a member of the Santa Cruz Watercolor Society and volunteers as editor of their newsletter. Her works can be found in numerous Bay Area private collections. She is represented by York Gallery in Santa Cruz, California and Cherry Hill Koi & Water gardens in San Jose, California.

** Plein aire is a French expression which means "in the open air," and is particularly used to describe the act of painting outdoors.*

INSPIRATION

Pull Quote:

"My artwork says that I am open to experimentation, I am a lifelong learner, and I just plain enjoy what I am doing as an artist. I am the ever-explorer into new territory."

During her high school years, Pat was awarded several opportunities to study art at the Museum of Art School in Boston. This was a special treat, as it meant working with the artists in her classes and exploring the Museum of Fine Art. Many of the exhibits, the Asian garden and Wing, the Egyptian Wing, and rooms full of Impressionist art, became inspirations for her work today.

Pat's exuberant approach to nature in its many forms provides her with an endless supply of subject matter for multimedia works in watercolor and handmade paper. Her preferences run the gamut from delicately painted florals to exotic contemporary abstracts with hidden garden forms to intricately crafted still life pieces, as well as unique renderings of Japanese Koi that she encounters in her travels.

Pat's philosophy is to enjoy the gift of creativity that she was born with. She is motivated by research, exploration, experimentation with materials, and new combinations of media. She continues to learn new ways of expressing herself through her art.

Future goals for Pat include teaching workshops, and earning the right to place AWS (American Watercolor Society) and NWS (National Watercolor Society) after her name. She would also like to publish a book about Koi, water plants, and water.

ART

Pull Quote:

“I feel that people choose my art because many of the paintings, collages, and abstract works touch them or resonate with them in some way. The watercolor paintings of bamboo and Koi, in particular, evoke a sense of tranquility, calmness, and meditation.”

Mediums of Mastery

Acrylic

“Acrylic is a lot of fun to work with. It can be used in many different ways, including thin, watery washes and thick impasto. Acrylic also lends itself to a variety of techniques – from painstaking detail to splashy abstracts. If you don’t like the way things are coming along, you can always paint over your piece and start again.”

Collage

“I’m open to experimentation and I’m an observer of nature, so collage offers unlimited possibilities. It’s a bit like putting a puzzle together. I typically combine found objects, imagery from a variety of sources such as photographs, postage stamps, exotic fibers, Asian and handmade papers, and color from acrylic paint, inks and watercolor.”

Handmade Paper

“Not long ago, someone asked me, ‘What compels you to create handmade paper?’ I replied, ‘It’s a gift, combined with a passion to create work that brings so much joy to me and to others.’ Handmade paper is a constant challenge that has led me on a wonderful journey of discovery.”

Oil Painting

“I have always been inspired by oils. I’m particularly drawn to the meticulous draftsmanship of the 15th Century Dutch painters. However, the Impressionists painters were probably the biggest influence on my work.”

Watercolor

“Growing up in the 1950’s meant that one was expected to wear a hat for all manner of occasions. The hats and the fabrics, along with antique glass, turned out to be inspirations for my later watercolors.”

CREDENTIALS

Solo Exhibitions

2010	17 th Avenue Studios Santa Cruz, CA - Spring Exhibit
2009	Community Television Santa Cruz, CA - Mixed Media Works Palace Art & Office Capitola, CA - Bamboo Series

2006-2008	Cherry Hill Water Gardens, San Jose, CA - Art by the Pond
2007	Palace Art & Office, Capitola, CA – Pond, Paper and Beyond Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino, CA - Mixed Media Koi Open Studios, Santa Cruz, CA - 17th Year
2004-2006	Surf City, Aptos, CA - Recent Works
2000-2001	Elegant Earth Gallery, Boulder Creek, CA - Watercolor Exhibits Santa Cruz County Government Center – Views from the Pond – JURIED

Selected Juried, Group, and Gallery Exhibits

2008-2010	Santa Cruz Art League, Santa Cruz, CA - Essence II Member Exhibition
1997-2010	Santa Cruz Art League - Santa Cruz Watercolor Society Annual Exhibit
2001-2007	Japanese Cultural Festival, Santa Cruz, CA - JURIED
2006-2007	GAL Studio Group Exhibit, Santa Cruz, CA - INVITATIONAL
2005	Morgan Stanley, Diversity, An Evening of Art, Santa Cruz - INVITATIONAL
2003	Santa Cruz Art League, Santa Cruz, CA – Annual Statewide Exhibit- JURIED
1999-2002	Los Gatos Museum of Art, Los Gatos, CA – OPEN JURIED EXHIBIT
1989-2002	Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County – Hearts for the Arts
2001	Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey, CA – JURIED-ALL MEDIA EXHIBITION Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey, CA – Artist’s Miniatures 2001 Santa Cruz County Government Center – Views from the Pond – JURIED Santa Cruz Art League, Santa Cruz, CA – Annual Statewide Exhibit- JURIED
2000	Santa Cruz Watercolor Society at the Museum of Art & History – JURIED

Publications and Awards

2000	Monterey Museum of Art – Juried All-Media Exhibition – Award of Excellence Los Gatos Open Juried Exhibition – First Place in Watercolor
1998	KOI USA – Artist’s Corner – Journey of a Koi Painter March/April
1997	1997 Koi Calendar – T.C Enterprises and House of Leo Publishers
1996	KOI USA – Artist’s Corner – Feature Article – May/June 1996 Koi Calendar – T.C. Enterprises and House of Leo Publishers
1994	KOI USA – Wind Dancing Koi – Feature Article – May/June

Education

1992	San Francisco State University: Physically Handicapped Specialist Program
1989	San Jose State University: Master of Art – Watercolor & Papermaking
1984	University of California Santa Cruz: BA’s in Fine Art and Art History
1981	Fullerton College, Fullerton, CA – AA in Fine Art, Certificate: Interior Design
1963	New England School of Art & Design- Fashion Illustration and Design

Professional Experience

1992-2008	Pajaro Valley Unified School District: Orthopedically Impaired Specialist
1989-1990	Hartnell College, Salinas, CA – Instructor: Art Appreciation
1986-1988	Mitchell School, San Jose, CA – Summer Art Instructor
1987-Present	Wind Dancer Studio – Owner and Mixed Media Artist

Professional Affiliations

- Santa Cruz Art League
- Santa Cruz Watercolor Society, Newsletter Editor

CONTACT

Wind Dancer Studio is open by appointment on the weekends, for your convenience.

Call 831-464-7455 to arrange a time to see Pat Michaud-Towery's fine art pieces.

Wind Dancer Studio

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www.WindDancerStudio.com