

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES

Studio 1: Joan M. Earnhart: Assemblage

Joan M. Earnhart was born and raised in Vermont and educated as a registered nurse. She returned to college to study art as her children grew and began showing her award winning assemblages in her mid-thirties. She had her first solo show at the highly-regarded Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA. From there she joined Gallery West in Alexandria, and in Washington, DC, Touchstone Gallery and the Mahler Gallery. She and her husband of more than fifty years moved to Vero Beach in 2005. In 2009, she was asked to join the No. 1 rated Gallery 14 as a represented artist. She has been a featured artist in Vero Beach Magazine, 32963 and various local publications. She has received numerous prestigious awards locally: Art by the Sea, winning the "Best of Show" award this year, Under the Oaks and Backus Gallery "Best of the Best" show. She has shown her work internationally and is in collections across the country, in Europe and Japan. Joan considers herself a "creative story teller". In her assemblages she employs and juxtaposes found objects, broken pieces of antiques, older objects that carry a history and representational objects to relate an idea. Her art is frequently spiritual, sometimes humorous and often considered beautiful.

Studio 2: Rae Marie Crisel: Oil, Water Color, Clay

Rae Marie Crisel spent her early working career as a research Biochemist and Molecular Biologist. She was also director of several manufacturing processes for a large pharmaceutical firm. In addition to her busy corporate life, she and her husband of 47 years raised three sons, and managed several private enterprises. Rae Marie always had the dream of becoming an artist to balance her scientific career, and she retired early to pursue both pottery making and painting. She has been making and selling her work for over 19 years since retirement. You can find her pottery displayed at the Flametree Clay Art Gallery on 14th Avenue, in Vero Beach, and on-line at flametreegallery.com. Her studio is located at 7707 N. U.S. Highway 1, Suite 8, Vero Beach.

Also in Studio 2: Peggy Thomas: Clay

Peggy was born and raised in Connecticut, attended Randolph Macon College, and graduated from the University of Connecticut. Additionally, she studied art at several colleges throughout the U.S. over the years and was apprenticed to a production potter. She has lived, worked and travelled in 11 different states and beyond, gathering memories and inspiration along the way that continue even now to fuel her creativity. Finally settling in Vero Beach, Florida, Peggy raised 5 children and taught art in the Indian River school system for 17 years. She now teaches clay art at the Vero Beach Art Museum. Her artwork has been shown in the Brevard Museum of Art, Vero Beach Art Museum, and the Backus Museum and galleries throughout Florida's treasure coast. Peggy is a resident artist at Flametree Clay Art Gallery, Vero Beach. She has participated in several local shows, including the prestigious Under the Oaks and Vero Beach Art Trail. Peggy is a lover of nature who finds much of her inspiration for her art in Florida's beautiful flora and fauna. When not sculpting, throwing or firing in her studio, you can find Peggy walking on the beach, paddling on the river or cycling through her part of the world.

Studio 3: Judy Rixom: Oil

I studied at Hagerstown College and University of Maryland and in Munich, Germany. Painting in oils is my passion having worked in this medium for fifty years. I enjoy painting all forms of subject matter, in particular, seascapes, animals and portraits. I have been teaching classes in oils since 2002. In 2003-2004, I was the co-owner of The Art Workshop in Vero Beach, FL. Currently I belong to the Artist Guild Gallery of Vero Beach and the Vero Beach Art Club. For the past five years I have chaired their second largest show, Art by the Sea. I also serve as a committee chair for the prestigious show Under the Oaks held in Vero Beach every March.

Studio 4: Emily Palmer: Acrylic, Watercolor

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Emily Palmer has shown an intense love for art in all forms as a child and into adulthood. She has studied several forms of art her entire life, including participating in several art study classes at the renowned Columbus College of Art & Design. Emily studied Art Education at the Columbus State College. From there her art took on a new form in the world of Culinary Arts. She moved out to a small town in Idaho, 30 miles from West Yellowstone, where she became the Pastry Chef at a world renowned fishing lodge and resort and continued to paint. Recently Emily has moved to Vero Beach, Florida and continues to be inspired by the unique animals and scenery of the South. She specializes in acrylic paintings, but has also been known to use water color as well. Her unique style is a combination of fauvism, impressionism and realism.

Also in Studio 4: Susan Gancher: Jewelry

As an 18 year old, I began my journey in metalsmithing, working in sterling silver and 14K gold. Fifty-five years later, I am just as enthused about making beautiful, interesting and unique jewelry.

Studio 5: John Wartman: Photography

Since studying Visual Arts at Brown University/RSID, I have had an urge to create images that exploit the juxtaposition of reality and the imagination. Art photography captures the compositional intersection of light and form; a unique moment in time, a still image. Camera technology supports a broad spectrum of styles and techniques, however, as in golf, it's the player not the equipment.

Studio 6: Rosemary Cotnoir: Oil, Acrylic, Sculpture

I studied at The New York/Phoenix School of Design, New York, NY and life drawing and watercolor at the Silvermine Artist Guild, Norwalk, CT and a summer school painting course at Yale University, New Haven. I studied stone carving at the Guilford Art Center with Darrell Petit and Andres Davis. I was educated as an interior designer at The New York School of Interior Design, New York, NY. I work predominately in oils and acrylic painting. The last 9 years I have ventured into stone carving as a secondary medium. The subjects I paint focus on the organic element in nature, mainly abstract patterns found in trees stone, plants, reflections. In May, I moved to Vero Beach from Essex, CT and became a full time resident.

Studio 7: Dorinda Walker: Raku Pottery

Dorinda is a Raku Clay Artist and she studied in Coral Gables, Florida and at the Vero Beach Art Museum. She started in high fire functional and discovered the amazing raku firing technique and has been entranced with it for about 10 years.

Studio 8: Merana Cadorette: Acrylic, Watercolor, Ceramic, Mixed Media

Merana has been an artist since she first discovered crayons. Since then, she has created hundreds of works in watercolors, acrylics, hand-built ceramics, with random pieces in a variety of other media. She has had work displayed in numerous juried shows, a few museums, and purchased by customers from around the world.

Her home, primarily designed and built by her husband and herself, (and some family and friends) is unique. It features hand-made tile outside and in. There are murals on both the house and hangar.

Studio 9: Sherry Haaland: Pastel

Sherry Haaland is a multi award winning pastel artist living in Vero Beach, FL. She graduated from Suny New Paltz College in Ny with a BS in Art Education. She has been involved in art all her life. Sherry loves creating pet and people portraits along with all types of subjects. She has been a member of the Artist Guild Gallery for 9 years in Vero Beach, Florida where she has her pastel art work for sale. She is an instructor at Vero Beach Museum of Art as well as a long- time member of the Vero Beach Art Club.

Also in Studio 9: Chuck Haaland: Photography

Chuck Haaland of Vero Beach, Florida has many artistic talents - furniture and cabinet maker, wood sculptor and photographer. Manipulated photography has become his main passion making people say wow! Based on first place awards from Backus Gallery and Vero Beach shows, he is definitely onto something big. When retiring from Windsor Club in Vero Beach, he plans on going full blast with his fine art photography. One amazing client actress Glenn Close bought one of his \$2000 coffee tables in Greenwich, CT in the 80's which resulted working exclusively for over 25 years remodeling and managing all her homes in Bedford, NY.

Studio 10: Indian River Clay Artists Listed Below

Maria Sparsis: Clay

Maria Sparsis was born on the island of Cyprus to a Cypriot father and a British mother. Maria has lived and worked in Wales, Scotland, New England and, for the last 18 years, Florida. A Marine Biologist by training and a scientist by inclination, Maria has a deep commitment to nature in all its forms. Maria is part owner of Tea and Chi, a premium loose-leaf tea company in downtown Vero Beach, a resident artist and former owner at Flametree Gallery, teaches pottery at Indian River Clay and serves as an adjunct biology professor at Indian River State College. Her love of tea and collection of teapots are what initially brought her to the world of ceramics. Much of Maria's work is inspired by her love of nature and fondness for the absurd. Her work is available for purchase through Flametree Clay Art Gallery in Vero Beach and Fitch & Fellows in Oxfordshire.

Jim Cohoe: Clay

Jim is a fine-art photographer turned clay artist. He has received multiple awards in the Art by the Sea show. He is an exhibiting artist at Flametree Clay Art Gallery and at the Indian River Clay Studio.

Karen Ekonomou AKA Keko: Clay

Keko is an accomplished painter and ceramic artist, rediscovering clay about 16 years ago. She is quick to point out her imaginative and colorful paintings are now in the three dimension of clay. Growing up and living on the sunny coast of Florida, she often sculpts flamboyant marine characters that look as if they were plucked right from the shoreline then whimsically posed. "I find myself laughing at my silly sculptures. While making them I try and imagine how they ended up in this crazy position with such a puzzled look on their face."

Keko is co-founder of Flametree Clay Art Gallery on 14th Avenue in Vero Beach, where she currently exhibits her fun and funky ceramic art, and her colorful birdbaths can be found in M. Maison on Ocean Drive and Costal Comforts in the Village Shops in Vero Beach Her past work has been featured in shops and galleries all along the eastern seaboard from Vermont to St. Croix.

Myrna Renkert: Clay

Art has always been a part of my life and it came to me in many forms. In the 70's I was an award winning batik artist in upstate NY, then life changed and my art took a hiatus for 20 years. A move to the Caribbean island of Vieques got me curious about what to do with the sea glass my puppy Sam and I were collecting daily on the beach— soon Local Color Sea Glass Jewelry was born and prospered. Another 20 years goes by and I end up living in Vero Beach where it seemed I would continue on this path but a clay class from a friend altered my thinking and I became fascinated with what I could do with clay and jewelry. Currently I am exploring primarily with porcelain clay but who know what the future will bring.....