



Carolyn Bell

Even as a child of nine in her first art class, Carolyn Bell was delighted with her ability to draw and make recognizable pictures. She continued to pursue her talent by taking Art Instruction Schools courses, eventually earning a General Art Certificate. It was a small set of acrylic paints from Jim Bell, who eventually became her husband and greatest promoter, who helped jumpstart her career. She says, “Since the very first time I picked up a paintbrush and put it to a canvas I have been in love. It definitely has something to do with the challenge of making the white surface colorful and representational of something else.” Even in her childhood drawings, Carolyn had a grasp of distance, then light and color became a challenge concurred with ease.

Carolyn’s art includes painting in acrylic, watercolor, pastel, gouache, and linoleum block prints. Mrs. Bell is not only known as an award winning artist, but a voracious photographer as well. Much of her art work is based on photographs she has taken while traveling all over the southwestern United States on camping and fishing trips with her family. As with many women artist, it was not until her youngest child started school that Carolyn really began painting on a regular basis. To improve her art skills, she joined a local art group, attended workshops, read books, and practiced. Soon she was entering in juried art shows, winning awards, and selling her paintings. In 1999, she won her first professional Best of Show, this was the validation she needed to reach-out to a national realm.

Sometimes it is necessary to stretch your ability as a painter by working out of your comfort zone. Several years ago an author from Carrollton, TX, approached Mrs. Bell to collaborate on a coloring book about the historical Plaza Theater, which had been converted into an arts center, located in Old Downtown Carrollton. Her simple pen and ink drawings so successfully illustrated the text, that the two collaborated on another project for the Farmers Branch Texas Historical Park. Like a chameleon, Carolyn has the ability to adapt her art to various mediums.

Carolyn is a member of Associated Creative Artists, Irving (TX) Art Assoc., Pastel Society of the Southwest, associate member of Women Artists of the West.

For more editorial information about this artist, please contact the artist directly:

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Image Tiff files provided:

Arches at Xavier 16 x 29 Acrylic