

Nancy Dillen Retrospective: 30 Years of Art in Brevard County

GRAND OPENING:

- October 2nd 5:30-9:00 PM
- EGAD First Friday Art Walk
- Highway Grrls Gallery and Studio
- 1414 Highland Avenue, Melbourne



Born and raised in Quincy, a small town in rural north Florida, Dillen graduated from Florida State University with an M.A. in Art Education and Constructive Design in 1971. After graduation, Nancy moved to Melbourne, Florida, where she became art instructor at Brevard Community College (BCC).

As an educator, she had the opportunity to work with and influence the art programs on all levels. While at BCC, she expanded the art program from a one-person function to an eight-person department. She taught a variety of courses ranging from drawing to ceramics. She has been a guest lecturer, juror, exchange instructor, and art consultant both nationally and internationally.

As a painter, Nancy's landscapes reflect the two worlds in which she lives... the real and imaginary. The 70's were years of exploration and discovery of subject matter. Interest in nature, animals, and the land evolved, especially when she spent a year as

exchange instructor on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada, 1977-78. While there, she did drawings on paper with Conte' pencils of rocks and roots found in the island environment. Here the theme of natures' struggle for survival developed.

Back in Florida, her love of color blossomed in 1982 when she took a plein-air painting class at Arrowmont School of Arts in Gatlinburg, TN with Leonard Kosciansky.



Red Trees

Accepting her southern roots was a personal concern since growing up in the south during the 50's and 60's. In the mid 80's, she started dealing with the passage of time, memories, and losses as a theme in her paintings.



Southern Comfort

From 1982-1989, Nancy's "Barrier Series" evolved from realistic to magically real depictions of the Florida or Tennessee landscapes with environmental changes and their affects being her main concern.



Detour

Meeting artist Richard Sammons in the mid 80's Nancy learned to mix her paint using dry pigment and burnt plate oil.

In 1989, thinking about family, nostalgia for her home in rural north Florida, the “Fruit and Vegetable Landscape Series” developed.



Pepper Balloons

After teaching plein-air class at Arrowmont in 1991, and hearing a story her husband told of an experience he had when very young on a farm in Pennsylvania, the “Woodchuck Series” was born. The “chuck’s” journey to find a private place is ongoing, and a metaphor for everyone’s struggle for discovery and fulfillment. It is a story that each viewer writes.



Who Goes There?

Studying egg tempera in Italy (mid ‘90’s) influenced Nancy’s painting technique and fostered a period of experimentation resulting in the “Palm Tree and Boat Icon Series.”



Sunscape

The “Water Circus Series” appeared as Dillen approached retirement from teaching art at Brevard Community College in 2006. She was inspired by the development of several paintings that came from anthropomorphizing man-made objects into

imaginary characters. The characters suggested fantasy environments that were conceived while listening to classical music and from looking at plant life found on daily walks.



Rip van Weasel

Nancy Dillen is now painting full time, creating art for public places, and exhibiting and conducting workshops locally and nationally. The intensity of color and contrasts found in Nancy’s works reflect her single-mindedness. Using her vocabulary of symbols, she makes a statement on contemporary society. To her, art and teaching are one. Each challenges us to see the world in a new light.

Nancy Dillen’s Contact Information:

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Highway Grrls Gallery and Studio

Hours: Monday-Friday 12-4 P.M.
Saturday 11-3 PM

1414 Highland Avenue, Melbourne, FL. in
the Eau Gallie Arts District (EGAD!)
between Ralph’s Art Supply of Melbourne
and

The Horn Section

Robin Rothrock, (Highway Grrls Gallery
and Studio owner)

Phone: 777-9420

Email: robinred@hotmail.com,
Website: www.robinrothrock.com

OPPORTUNITY: Learn more about color with Nancy! Two-Day Painting Workshop, Brevard Art Museum, Oct. 17 & 18. Call Bobbie McMillan at 254-7782.