

The Desert Art Center April Volunteer of the Month, Kathleen Irvine

Kathleen Irvine has been chosen as the Volunteer of the Month for her tireless work helping to prepare the gallery for the week of intake before opening receptions. She takes on any task to make the gallery “shine,” as well as answering the phone and helping with title cards.

Kathleen began her art study at Herron School of Art, now affiliated with Indiana-Purdue University. She traveled to Italy, Austria, and Switzerland, and was highly influenced by Carravagio because of his use of lighting, contrast, and theatrical drama. Continuing her studies in Fine Art, Kathleen studied Visual Communications and Design at Ball State University.

From Indiana, Kathleen took on Hollywood, singlehanded, not easy for a young woman at that time. She worked in animation for twenty years, for Hanna Barbara Productions, Filmation Studio where she did dialogue, special effects, and promotional work, and Warner Brothers where she worked as a color stylist, developing a color theme for an entire show, - for all characters, backgrounds, and props. She is a member of the Motion Picture Screen Cartoonists Union.



When her mother became ill a few years ago, Kathleen took her into her home and nursed her until she passed. During that time, she began working with animals and training dogs as comfort animals for those in hospice care. She says, “I’ve learned a lot from the animals because they live in the present.” She continues to paint and says, “What I enjoyed as a child, I do now.”

It is evident in her florals that Kathleen has been greatly influenced by Georgia O’Keefe, a master in conveying the beauty of nature in abstract form.

She’s a member of the Palm Springs Art Museum Artist Council, the Desert Art Center, and Fine Art America. Her work is rich and has the beautiful energy of the artist herself and can be seen at kathleenirvinefineart.com.



“One of the perks of getting older is the ability to focus, finally, coming home to what you love to do.” It’s the truth.



