

NANA CARRILLO
Art Bio
www.nanacarrillo.com

My creative journey began in childhood. I often wiled away hours doodling faces of characters in storybooks, cartoons, and animals, filling up sketchbooks and playing with paints. By high school my parents had signed me up for the Famous Artists Correspondence Course which taught me about different mediums and techniques. Art and life drawing classes were always on my college course schedules, though I graduated in psychology and later a Masters in social policy. While raising a family and managing a career, I sketched and painted as often as possible. About 6 years ago, I returned to art, taking classes from Loreta Feedback, a nationally recognized artist in Kansas City. She introduced me to the beauty of soft pastels.

There was a tradition in my family of artistic expression. My Mom, Colleen, loved the 19th Century impressionists, her Mom was a watercolor artist, her father sketched with pen and ink, and her sister was a painter. Like these family members, nature and people inspire me. Recently, my husband and I moved from the Midwest to Texas to live near our family. We were also lured by the Texas Hill Country which is rich in natural beauty. I grew up in coastal Northern California and have the wonder and mystery of the ocean in my psyche. I love painting scenes with water and am compelled to capture the brilliance of being seaside! Fortunately, I travel to the coast a few times a year visiting family so I get some sketching and photographing in along the way.

My goal is to capture through art the beauty and wonder I experience in nature and life, and to follow a path of artistic growth and discovery with freshness and humility each day. I continue to study art and train through workshops, dvds, books, and online videos. I am a member of the Texas Pastel Society, Women Artists of the West, and The River Art Group here in San Antonio. At present, my work is represented in two galleries, The River Art Gallery in San Antonio, Texas and The Turquoise Mushroom Gallery in Hondo, Texas. My artwork is influenced by 19th and 20th Century Impressionist movements in Europe and California, as well as the early Tonalist movement. There are so many artists I draw inspiration from both past and present; an incomplete list will include John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, Claude Monet, George Innes, Kevin McPherson, John Cosby, Kim Lordier, Enid Wood and Phil Starke (to name only a few).

My sense is that making art is curative, as it requires patience, focus, and recognizing what inspires us. It is meditative, and leads us towards awesome moments of "flow" or being in the "zone." Creating art reminds me of the divine in us and all things.

See more of my artwork on my website: www.nanacarrillo.com. I am happy to do commissions of people, pets and landscapes.