

# A Life of Creativity

by Claudette Lee-Roseland

I grew up in Chicago in an area of the southside called Beverly Hills. My school life in the forties and fifties was reasonably rich with the educational opportunities of the day. As a child, I was surrounded with art and art objects. At an early age, my parents sent me to a neighborhood artist who was giving drawing lessons. My love of creating something continued through my life.

My formal art education consisted of workshops from other artists that I admired. I have a BA from Ripon College where there was no art program during my years, and an MS from the University of Wisconsin. Teaching junior high History and Civics was my first career. During this time, we all made many creative projects that corresponded with the subject matter. After 20 years, I left education for the computer industry, working for an electrical instrument manufacturer. I always painted in my spare time for myself.



In 1992, I began my third career developing a program of workshops for a local art supply store. For the next nine years, I taught all sorts of things in the art world to beginners who wanted to learn to paint. We explored drawing, painted in watercolor, oil, and acrylic, made paper, and created books. When I retired from that role, I started teaching at the Cedarburg Cultural Center and did so for a number of years.

I have always thought of myself as an artist. It took me awhile to get there on a professional level. Creativity is important to me. I have knit, done needlepoint and cross-stitch, sewn, created metal work jewelry and costume jewelry. I have had three highly successful products: jewelry, painted tiles, and paintings. My paintings dominate my work today.



*Claudette Lee-Roseland, Seagulls, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches.*

My painting career encompasses subjects from florals to landscapes to cows. My favorite subject is No Subject. I prefer to paint in a non-objective manner, without subject. I like to manipulate the paint, colors, shapes, and line into a workable conclusion. I like the idea of approaching a subject with no idea of what will turn out. Compositional rules are important to me. After splashing around for a while, I analyze my work according to the "rules." They give me direction for the mess I have created.

Involvement in local art organizations has been important to me as well. I have served on the boards of Wisconsin Visual Artists, Wisconsin Craft Council, have been treasurer and president of Cedarburg Artists Guild and volunteered for numerous arts organizations. Currently, I am represented by Idea Contemporary Gallery in Door County, Artisan Forge Gallery in Eau Claire, and The Pink Llama in Cedarburg. I maintain a studio in Cedarburg in the Hanover Building on Saint John Avenue.

I have been lucky to have a life of creativity. Many of my efforts will live on past my lifetime. It makes me happy when someone tells me they enjoyed my work or learned something from me. A painting does need a viewer to complete the creative process! Someone once said the nature of a work of art is not to be a part or a copy of the real world, but a world in and of itself.

*Claudette Lee-Roseland, Circular Directions, acrylic and crayon, 18 x 24 inches. Claudette's "Imagination Unleashed" exhibition at the Cedarburg Art Museum is October 2, 2020 – January 10, 2021.*

