

Kathleen Kuchar

Hays, Kansas

Intuitive is the perfect title for this show. That's how I work! Typically, I start out with a general idea and let it go from there. The work takes on a life of its own as I add, subtract and make changes. When to stop is the question. Usually, the painting tells me it is finished when the colors work together, the shapes are just right, and I like the way it looks.

Over the years my artwork has changed in style but never in content. Layering is essential as it is what makes my work rich in content. It amazes me that a painting sometimes reveals a “surprise” symbol or added meaning long after the work has left the easel.

I attribute my quest for discovery to my early years. Raised on a Nebraska farm, my fondest memories are riding my pony and helping dad with the fieldwork and livestock. My brother, sister and I invented our own games and spent a lot of time making igloos, playhouses and forts. At the one-room country school, the teacher encouraged me to draw and create when I finished my bookwork. As a four-year old child, I remember telling my parents that I was going to be an artist and teacher.

Thanks to their love and support, my dream came true. I earned art degrees from Kearney State College in Nebraska, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, and Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. I taught high school art for two years followed by 34 years of teaching painting and design at Fort Hays State University.

Being retired from teaching, I now work full-time in my studio. These past two decades have been a productive time with all sorts of projects ranging from collages, monotypes, acrylics and occasionally some photography. I like to experiment.

One of my professional and creative affiliations is with the Society of Layerists in Multi-Media. This group has provided me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful artists who have become life-long friends. The meetings we have, the books that we publish, the website—all are so important in our goal of staying connected. . . and staying creative.

