

The Windfalls of Passion Artist Statement ~ Rodney Wood

The title of this show was inspired by the lyrics of a beautiful and haunting *Dead Can Dance* song, "The Captive Heart" written by Brendan Perry.

***Seems like I've loved you all my life
Never thought I'd find you
One day the muse may lend these words wings
So I can touch you
Don't worry if the feelings not strong for you
I have lived my life in accordance
To the windfalls of passion***

These words are akin to a description of my life's path. Therefore it seems the best place to start my attempt at using the written word to describe the art work seen in this exhibition.

My artist eyes, mind, heart and soul have one dominate barometer of success. That is to engage, attract and perhaps mystify the people who are looking at my work. I aspire to create art with which viewers can experience a connection. Perhaps a piece will tell a story or capture a moment that the viewer finds compelling. Does the painting pique one's intellect or does it elicit an emotion? I am most fascinated when a piece touches a watcher's heart. I am most energized when an art onlooker stops long enough to ponder their own mind, heart or, ideally, their soul.

My inspiration comes from a variety of sources but consistently appears via my desire to explore the human condition. I am rapt by peoples' feelings, courage, curiosity and their deepest survival skills. For me, human emotions are far more inspiring than their thoughts. My paintings are my inner voice softly screaming with the hope of being heard.

"The job of the artist is to always deepen the mystery." - Francis Bacon

I believe in art. I believe in magic. My work is often categorized as "Magic Realism." On occasion, I've been blessed with media coverage. A couple of arts writers referred to my work as "Emotional Realism" and I took that as a grand compliment. I am thrilled when I see viewers discussing a piece amongst themselves. The greatest reward is when a piece results in an emotional response; be that smiles or tears or bafflement. Enigma and mystery open doors to unexpected thoughts and feelings.

"Strangeness is the indispensable condiment of all beauty." - Charles Baudelaire

Some artists are inspired by light or color. Others are expressing ideas or depicting natural beauty. My desire is to explore emotions. That includes a wide array of emotions from joy to sorrow, contentment to loneliness or pleasure to melancholy. I seek inspiration from an exploration of beauty and relish finding it in uncommon places or circumstances. This quest requires me to look behind closed doors and use my curious eyes to be open to the unexpected.. This path is one I cannot resist and truly must trust the 'windfalls of my passion'. I am deeply honored to be able to share these visions with you all.

With Gratitude, Rodney Wood

- *Artist bio next page*

Rodney Wood - Bio

Rodney Wood is Colorado native who, for years, followed his nomadic spirit by living around the western United States. As artist, educator, arts advocate & activist, he has worn many hats. His long held passions have been focused on making art and an incurable desire to encourage others to do so as well. He has taught art at all levels within various environments and disciplines. Having served on numerous art-based boards and steering committees, his devotion to the arts has been a lifelong endeavor.

His resume includes: Director - Business of Art Center (Manitou Springs, CO), Director of the Fine Arts Exhibition at the Colorado State Fair. He has worked in, owned and/or managed numerous art galleries. He has served as curator for over 200+ art exhibitions and has judged/juried an additional 50+ shows, exhibitions and arts-based competitions.

His fascination with the uncommon also led to his time as coach/trainer for an Olympic fencer along with a stint as Assistant Coach and Youth Development Coordinator within the U.S. Modern Pentathlon system at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. His artistic attitude had value in the arts as well as within athletic and business environs. His incurable desire to practice and promote the value of new ideas and exploration led him to being an expert consultant in the field of creativity. His workshops and presentations are very popular within both the public and private sectors. His talents in this arena have been widely taken advantage of as an educator, corporate trainer and motivational speaker. His clients includes an art groups, schools, businesses and corporations as well as non-profit organizations such as: arts, social services, cities, events and programs.

Most recently, he was the founder, director and event organizer for ArtoCade (art car festival) annually held in Trinidad, CO. This wildly successful and nationally respected festival has come to satisfy Rodney's ongoing community building spirit and as an outlet for his incurable obsession with creativity and uniqueness both as art car promotor and "cartist". ArtoCade won the Colorado Governor's Award for "Best Festival". Rodney and partner Susan Palmer won the *Trinidad City of Champions Award* given by the Trinidad Community Foundation for their leadership and community building efforts through the arts and art car activities. Mr. Wood was honored in 2018 by being chosen to receive the very prestigious "*Colorado Governor's Leadership Award*" for his community building actions via the arts. These successful endeavors led to the establishment and implementation of the *Art Cartopia* art car museum. It quickly became a highly acknowledged and attended art-based roadside attraction. While under his wing, Art Cartopia promoted the arts and creativity to a very diverse audience and inspired artists and non-artists of all ages and ethos. After 10 years he retired from his position in January 2022. Along with his family, he moved to Hoisington, KS in early March.

As an artist, his early artwork was dominated by 3D media such as jewelry/metal-smithing and sculpture. Photography has also long been an active part of his repertoire. In 2004 an unexpected transition occurred; his art voice shifted to become completely focused on oil painting. This shift has resulted in a long list of exhibitions, awards and publication. His reputation has evolved with his work now being on display and collected across the country and internationally.

Rodney Wood

264 W. 4th St.

Hoisington, KS

719-334-0087 rodneywood51@msn.com