



HOWELL GALLERY

JOY RICHARDSON

I'm absolutely passionate about color and art lovers tell me that my paintings make them happy. My world is all about color - dressing, decorating and painting in lively pigments. Dreams in vivid tones saturate my mind and I can't wait to awaken and splash my latest "mental hue" across a canvas. That just might be why others have defined me as a "colorist". Acrylic is my medium as I'm able to finesse with subtlety from one hue to another with the inherent blending properties of acrylics.

Paramount in the composition is balance, be it symmetrical or asymmetrical. For that I find no rule – just an internal feeling of "rightness". Turning my paintings in all directions, I'm not satisfied until the equalization of "color-weight-interest" shows parity. My works have a timeless appeal as there is no discernible object identified. The nuances that occur while blending my own color combinations create unprecedented new shades for which the dictionary hasn't names yet! I sign my paintings UP the right side, which is part of the balance.

Art viewers stand back and squint, telling me what they see. Their reaction is usually a mood adjective as in festive, mellow, energized, peaceful, jubilant, spiritual, or pensive. Tools for my work vary from wee brushes to wide fat bristles to all sizes of palette knives, creating many layers of color which give an infinite variety of tones. My works are usually unframed, and I use a thick gallery-edged canvas, finished with a fixative so the final product won't yellow or change.

Through my life I've taken art classes, but most wanted me to "color within the lines", and that smashed the spontaneity of expression, so I just struck out and experimented. Fortunately many people are seeking that explosion of creativity. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, grew up in Oklahoma City and was graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS degree in Fashion, and a minor in Journalism. For over twenty years I've written a weekly column for FRIDAY newspaper. My husband and I boast proudly of our three adult children and the resultant adorable NINE grandchildren. As with most artists, I'm ever evolving, developing intriguing textures, new colors and use of space and techniques. I'm aware that color would be ordinary without structure, so you'll see energetic tones and texture intertwine against a serene backdrop, often with a saucy jolt that leaves the viewer ruminating about why he is uplifted. Welcome into my world of color and balance, it's a delightful place in which to live – and will make where YOU live, inviting and enchanting.