

## Art by Jean McGuire

I am a Kansas City native who returned to painting a few years ago after a 40-year hiatus. Happily, even though I wasn't actively working on my art, my ability to view the world in colors and shapes never went away. I was able to take those observations and transfer them to my medium while maintaining the curiosity and wonder of a newcomer.

I am fascinated by using a limited palette to create colors. I was taught in grade school that an artist only needs to use red, yellow, blue, and white to create every color. A background in commercial printing embedded that belief even deeper. I like to breakdown my paintings into the layers of color you would see if you were color separating a four-color process photograph. I complete this breakdown in my mind, with no computer aids, and it still thrills me to see the depth evolve as the layers go down.

An interest in antique photos has lured me into portrait studies. I love the faces, the expressions, and the attitudes of these, usually, long-forgotten people. The theme for all of these portraits is the story behind each picture. I love pondering what kind of life each of them had while I am working on their portrait.

Locally, I have had pieces in the Overland Park Art at The Center, in Plug Gallery, in the Hilliard Gallery, in the "Faces of Kansas City" show at the Epsten Gallery, a three person show at RG Endres Gallery, a three woman show at 80 Santa Fe Gallery, and in the 18th Annual Juried Show at Images Art Gallery.

Nationally, I've had pieces in the "Voices of the Midwest" exhibit at Fine Line Creative Art, St. Charles, IL, the "Finding Our Voices" show at Kelwood Gallery in Baton Rouge, the "Everything Blue" show at MVA Gallery in Bethlehem, PA, at the CAL International 2023 show at the Conroe Art League in Conroe, TX, and at the Fayetteville State Her Story exhibition.