

Bio

RVA based painter Kathy Calhoun's initial foray into art began in her mom's studio (a.k.a the kitchen table) with that groovy 70s stand-by, tole painting. She then furthered her studies by breaking into her older brother's room to hand copy his album covers. It was only after two art degrees, many solo exhibitions, stints in New York and Paris, and teaching at a every level possible that Kathy discovered that this was actually a time honored master teaching technique. The copying that is, not the breaking and entering.

Kathy's work now gets awards, occasional press and can be found in private and corporate collections, scattered around the United States and in Europe. She has also expanded from the kitchen table (though it sometimes still comes in handy) to a "real" studio- as well as teaching regional workshops, at art centers and on a university level.

Philosophy

Her approach to teaching art is a lot like the method she used to get her children to drive...learn how to start the car before planning the road trip. A firm believer in the *know-the-rules-before-you-break-them* mantra, Kathy loves using a mini version of the classical atelier approach to introduce the foundational design and compositional techniques needed for realism. She then encourages her students to discover which techniques they want to toss, or manipulate to express their unique voice.

Finding a vibrant balance between discipline and creativity is her inspiration in both the classroom and studio.