



Xo Terra Visual Artist

I was always going to be an artist when I grew up. As a child I always had my hands on some sort of drawing tool or in some sort of creative “goo”.

I graduated from San Francisco State University in 1974 with a BA in Art/ceramics emphasis. I quickly found that with my degree and 50 cents I could buy a cup of coffee. I saw no immediate way to support myself as an artist and soon fell into another skill that I brought into this lifetime...carpentry.

So, for over 15 years I made my living as a builder and fixer of houses and things. I kept my soul slightly satisfied by continuing to pursue various art forms when I had time and energy away from work.

In 1983 while living in Berkeley, and then again in 1989 while living in Hawaii, Spirit came in and got my attention with two major back injuries. I ignored the first wake up call, but couldn't ignore the second one while I spent over a year in a jungle shack on my back observing the ceiling. I realized that it was time to do what I was going to do when I grew up. I sold my tools and my flatbed truck and opened up the box with my 20 year old brushes and tubes of paint...and I began to paint.

That first painting won third prize at the largest Big Island art competition. The next year I won First Place in the same competition. I spent the remaining 4 years in Hawaii painting and showing and selling my work. During that time I was also prompted to save the threatened two miles of canopied mango trees that lined a winding road to the ocean. As a result of that effort, Puna Outdoor Circle was formed and continues to this day (under a different name) to actively protect the Big Island's rural beauty. And, those 601 mango trees are now protected by the County of Hawaii as “Exceptional Trees”.

I moved to Bisbee in 1994 and bought 40 raw acres of land the following year. Building a home was a first priority for the next 6 years. Then, in 2000, I once again fell into “the great illusion”, and created a business that was supposed to support me so that I could have a passive income and paint without fear of loss. Well, it doesn't work that way. There is no energy left over for painting when you spend all your energy creating and managing a start-up business.

Spirit swooped in again and rescued me by causing a business belly-flop. Once again I couldn't ignore my soul...I had to paint...and embrace the risk of it. Passion and trust were the key ingredients. I had no choice but to paint.

My fantasy and dream to be totally immersed in my art is now a reality. I paint in my off-grid studio out in the Bisbee outback. I have a meaningful and challenging job teaching art to “at-risk” teens. The kids gift me with the knowledge and inspiration that art truly can save lives. I know it has saved mine.