

**ARTIST OF THE  
MONTH  
Joyce M. Rick**



I was born near the river in the heavy industrial city of Newcastle in the North of England, and moved to Nottingham, the home of Robin Hood, where I now live after marrying and having 3 children.

My early career was in the Insurance industry where success brought good rewards. After a few years and in search of new challenges, I moved into Personnel and for 8 years worked as a Personnel and Training Manager for a large Hotel Group. To expand my knowledge I gained additional qualifications to enable me to manage a large team in Social and Community Care for the Elderly for Nottingham City Council. In addition to this work I was also in partnership with my husband in our Financial Services Business. When he unfortunately died in 1991, I left my employment and ran the business as a sole trader for a number of years.

However, although I have had a very demanding and fulfilling career, I am intrinsically craft oriented. When very young, I made jewelry which I sold to friends and neighbors for pocket money. In my teens learned to do fine embroidery on table linens from the ladies in the church sewing class, these were sold at the annual church bazaar. I made my girls dresses when they were young, and before retiring, I completed a four-year Upholstery course.

My life changed when I met Tony, whom I currently live with. We moved into a cottage built in the 1700's which is in small village called Hoveringham. Situated near the river and about 10 miles outside of the centre of Nottingham. Not only did a Peer of the Realm, Sir Edward Nall and his family live in the village but a very famous Portrait Painter called John R. Townsend, who with his wife Tina has traveled all over Europe on commissions for famous people. Together with painting many Dukes and Duchess in England. His most famous commission being a portrait of the Queen 12 ft x 16 ft which hangs in the Nottingham Council House.

Living in these idyllic surroundings, I decided to sell my business and do things that I always wanted to do. I heard that John Townsend was taking one or two students in his studio, and I had always wanted to paint, had never had the time, but also did not have any idea how to get started.

I rang John up and told him that I wanted to paint but didn't know how. I asked him if I should go to the local college to learn the fundamentals of painting before going to him. "No" he said, "just come along."

I nervously arrived at John's studio which was a large barn with huge North facing windows (nothing fancy with the odd field mouse or two), John sat me down at a table covered with a dark cloth, gave me a large palette with dabs of oil paint on it, oil paper taped to a board on a temporary easel, together with some turps in a jar. He then gave me 3 daisies in a wine glass and said "paint those." I was scared stiff but if this great man told me I had to paint those, that is what I had to do. When I had finished my painting, John added one or two finishing touches. I was so excited at the result that I ran home to Tony with tears running down my face saying "Look, look, Tony at what I have painted." That was my beginning, and I feel so lucky.

Eventually, John had about 8 regular students, and we formed a group and I became chairperson of that small group and we held annual exhibitions in The Village Hall. These Exhibitions have become very prestigious affairs that are still held every year and attended by local dignitaries.

Tony and I have done a lot of traveling to Europe, Asia, Africa, parts of the US and Canada, etc. and over the last 14 years I have painted what I have seen and experienced. Among my paintings are: Victoria Falls, The Matterhorn, Masi Children, African Villages, Elephants in Chang Mai, Aspen trees in Colorado, Mountain Villages in Andalusia, to name a few. Most of the above which have been sold. I am now enjoying painting wildlife in Florida.

I have worked in a variety of media -- watercolor, pastel, acrylics and oils, but I prefer to work in oils as I like to see soft edges. When at home in Nottingham I am a member of local art groups and from time to time participate in workshops. I attended Nottingham University for 2 years on a part-time life drawing course. I have received a number of awards for my paintings, including the Bonningham Rose Bowl, the Lansdale Cup. I have also exhibited and sold in London Exhibitions where my work was highly commended.

When I first started painting I went to John's studio twice a week, but now that I am in Florida in the winter I don't get the opportunity to attend. However, when I am at home, I take my work to John for a critique which I greatly appreciate