



Artist of the Month—Jo Ruth Patterson

Jo Ruth Patterson grew up in Texas and New Mexico, attended the University of Texas at El Paso, and taught school for 9-1/2 years in El Paso, TX. She married in 1978 and moved with her new husband and son to Northern Virginia. There Jo Ruth started a new career in the Federal Service in human resources. During her career, she spent 6-1/2 years in Europe working for US Army Europe as a Human Resources Manager.

Jo Ruth always wanted to take painting lessons as an adult but she never had the time with a full-time career and being a wife and mother. When she retired in 2005, she and her husband sold their house and moved into an RV with their two dogs, Honey and Kelly. That Christmas, her husband gave her a box of watercolors, acrylics and oil paints. As they traveled across the country, Jo Ruth took art lessons in various locations. In Albuquerque, she studied under Joanne Kennedy, a noted watercolor artist, and fell in love with watercolors. When she moved to The Villages, FL in 2007 and saw all the opportunities for art lessons, Jo Ruth enrolled in Judi Adams' art classes. She worked with various media but found herself returning to watercolor because of its luminosity and spontaneity.



JO RUTH RETURNED TO WATERCOLOR BECAUSE OF ITS LUMINOSITY AND SPONTANEITY.

Lian Zhen, a Chinese watercolor artist, has been her teacher and an inspiration for many of her paintings. Jo Ruth has taken many classes from Lian and loves his combination of spontaneity and detail in his watercolor paintings. She has also been inspired by numerous other artists' classes she's taken through the Lifelong Learning College and through the many daily opportunities to learn and practice new art techniques in art classes in the recreation centers.

Jo Ruth loves painting animals, birds and landscapes, especially African animals. She also does pet portraits. See her website, www.watercolorsbyjoruth.com, where you can view her paintings and purchase high quality prints of her work.

