

Artist of the Month—Carol O'Brien



Once upon a time, Carol O'Brien was a painfully skinny teenager. She made all her own clothes so she would have a wardrobe that fit. She spent hours in the fabric store, fingering every bolt of fabric and developed a lifelong addiction to color and texture.

Carol earned a living in Manhattan as a global financial analyst, but she came alive working part-time in a bridal shop designing and sewing custom dresses for brides, mother-of-the-brides and prom girls.

In later years she developed an equal passion for gardening. Her New Jersey home was surrounded by Zinnias, Coneflowers, Paeonies, and everything else that doesn't grow well in Florida.

Moving to Florida, Carol continued gardening but needed something creative to do during those hot summers.

When she came across a book on how to make paper flowers, she tried it, buying a single roll of white crepe paper and tinting it with supermarket food coloring. A single Paeonia flower required ninety hand-cut petals. A full bouquet took twenty hours to create. She was hooked.

Now Carol has a dedicated studio, Bouquet Papier, where she creates all her favorite flowers, independent of growing zones or even light.

Carol lives in the Village of Tall Trees. She recently displayed her floral art in the VAA Winter Fine Arts Show.

