

Merle Rosen, a practicing artist in Cincinnati for the past 36 years, has shown extensively in museums and galleries including the Contemporary Arts Center (Cincinnati), J.B. Speed Museum (Louisville, KY), Kharkiv Museum in the Ukraine, Cincinnati Art Galleries, Carnegie Arts Center (Covington, KY), Chaucer Galleries (Scottsdale, AZ), and C.A.G.E. She received a fellowship to the Vermont Studio Center in 1993 and has received six individual artists grants from the City of Cincinnati.

Her work has been widely collected. Corporate collections include Bethesda Hospitals, Scripps Howard, Cardinal Aluminum, Cincinnati Bell; Ulmer & Berne and The Christ Hospital. Her work is in private collections throughout the country. She has undertaken several commissions in recent years. Her largest to date is two (4' x 16' and 4' x 12') murals created for Petersen's Restaurant in downtown Cincinnati. She has also completed several commissions of hand-painted furniture.

In addition to being a studio artist, Rosen has been teaching in the arts for more than 40 years. Her emphasis is threefold: creating artwork; exploring the spiritual, metaphysical, and natural world; sharing these explorations through teaching. Rosen began teaching art professionally at age of 15, and has taught throughout her career from the pre-school to college level. In 1969/70 she directed and taught the preschool children's art classes at the Cincinnati Art Museum. In the 1970's and early 1980's, she directed ceramics programs at The Arts Consortium and Thomas Moore College, and taught ceramics at the University of Cincinnati. From 1981- 1999, she taught drawing, collage and archival materials at University of Cincinnati and The Art Academy of Cincinnati, as well as privately.

Largely self-taught, Rosen produced black and white drawings for the first 15 years of her career. In 1983, she began a color series of abstract pastel and pencil works derived from years of sketchbook studies.

Since 1988, she has been depicting the figure in her work. Using a vivid palette in an array of media (ink, pastels, acrylic, and textiles), Rosen portrays stylized figures, often solitary, set in dreamlike surroundings. These pieces explore archetypal emotions, and are whimsical, painterly, and densely layered.

She began painting with Golden acrylics in 1991, long before having a professional association with the company as a Working Artist. She has continued to use Golden products from that time through the present in paintings, drawings, sculpture, and furniture.

In 1995, she began to investigate image-making on a Power Macintosh computer. Through 1996, more than 150 digital images were completed, many of which retain stylistic content from earlier work. Rosen collaged digitally, using scans of handmade paper, drawings, natural materials and textiles.

Past works (1997/1998) include a series of 25 cast glass sculptures, and an ongoing series of small pencil drawings, large paintings and mixed media collage. Other creative endeavors (2001-2003) include large pastel works and an

extensive series of bronze sculpture.

Rosen's more recent work is an ongoing series (2003-2005) of oil pastels derived from images generated by the bronze sculpture.

Currently she is renovating a studio in Cincinnati as a base from which to work and teach Golden workshops and lectures as well as private art classes.