

KATHRYN RUTHERFORD
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BIOGRAPHY

LIFE AND EDUCATION

Kathryn Rutherford was born and raised in Ontario, Canada, but left her native home to study at Arizona State University after receiving the Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship Award and a tuition-free International Scholarship from ASU. There, she earned a Bachelor of Art Education, Cum Laude, Deans List Degree with majors in Painting, Drawing, and Education and minors in Art History, Psychology, Special Education, and English. After attending a total of six universities in various locations throughout North America, Kathryn holds credentials and teaching licenses from the province of Ontario, in Canada, the state of Arizona, and the state of Tennessee, in the U.S. She has continuously taught Fine Art, Art History, and English in secondary schools and colleges as well as privately throughout her lifetime.

Music, Theater, and Costume Design occupies much of Kathryn's private life. She holds credentials in History, Harmony, Counterpoint, and Music Performance and plays piano, Celtic harp, some flute, and guitar. She doesn't sing, but has perfect pitch and was, at one time, the rehearsal pianist for the Canadian Court Light Opera Company and Windsor Ballet Company in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Kathryn has a third professional life dedicated to the Professional Photographers of Canada and the Professional Photographers of Michigan, Tennessee, and America. Recently awarded Life-Time Membership to the PPA, Kathryn has served the photography and photographic artisan industries since 1980 by enhancing, restoring, or creatively altering the photographs of international professional photographers and providing hand-coloured and original oil portrait services, as well as creative digital fine art through her company, Heirloom Art Studio. Working in and teaching traditional and digital techniques of Fine Art and Photography, Kathryn has received the Certified Retouch Artist, Photographic Craftsman, and Master Artist Degrees and was the first person outside the United States to earn the coveted Photographic Artisan and Laurel Degrees from the American Photographic Artisans Guild.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kathryn Rutherford fine art and photographic restorations have been juried into a multitude of international exhibitions with many pieces receiving prestigious awards. One photographic restoration was chosen, in 1990, by the Eastman Kodak Company to hang at Epcot Center, Florida, as part of a special photographic exhibit honoring the 150th Anniversary of the invention of the Daguerreotype (the first camera). The Masterpiece Award, the highest award given in the photographic industry, was presented to Kathryn in 1999 by the Fuji Photo Film Corporation. Traditionally awarded to

a professional photographer for photographic excellence, the Masterpiece Award was presented for the first time to an artisan for the image Kathryn reconstructed using a photographic process she developed to restore blackened tintypes. Her paintings labeled "Spirit Paintings" have been awarded Best of Show and Award of Distinction recognition in various exhibitions throughout the Southeastern United States. Of a painting of an historic church just a few miles from her studio, Tomi Melson, Executive Director, Piedmont Craftsmen, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, wrote:

"I was so captivated by Kathryn Rutherford's painting entitled "Guardians of Headrick Chapel", by her ability to create a provocative narrative with her technical skill, that I have awarded her an Award of Distinction."

That painting went on to receive Best of Show at the 2005 12th Sevier County Biennial Juried Exhibition in 2005.

A special Award of Distinction was presented by the East Tennessee Historical Society, in 2012, for the Headrick Chapel and Little Greenbrier School Spirit Painting series because of what the Society considered to be their "historic importance to preserving the area's past and creating lasting portraits in oil of those who lived and settled East Tennessee" where she currently operates her studio business.

A STATEMENT ABOUT THE WORKS OF ART

"Spirit Paintings" capture emotional moments, whether the subject is a treasured heirloom, the multi-generational story of ordinary lives, or a state of being on a metaphysical plane. These paintings are continuing investigations of the transparency effects of light and shadow on reflective or see-through objects and figures.

Every painting tells a story and, since each viewer may share a similar remembrance of the subject matter, they experience personal emotions and, thus, become an active participant in the work of art.

Memories and experiences are what give life meaning and structure, but must be kept alive so as to not become lost forever. Kathryn Rutherford gains a deep sense of fulfillment transforming the memories entrusted to her into works of art on canvas that are preserved for posterity.