

Alice Lynn Greenwood

Hometown? Cammack Village in Little Rock

Professional training (as artist or anything else)?

From early childhood ran wild with my collies then wrote and illustrated the stories I told them

► Hendrix College: BA, cum laude, in art

► Freelance graphic artist: Continued as graphic artist commercially/philanthropically through years as mother to pre-adult son and daughter

► NYC Years:

General Theological Seminary, masters studies exploring spirituality and creativity

► Clothing/Window Designer for LoNY in Greenwich Village: Girlhood dream to be "fashion designer" came true. Art Students League, Studio Studies

► Newton County: Four Years of deep-listening solitude in the outback of Arkansas

Day job?

Keeping my body, mind and soul clear, strong and healthy to work as a full-time professional



artist/portraitist

Best and worst thing about being an artist in NWA?

NWA is a garden, a spectacular, sensory-stimulating garden, full of generous-hearted people. Best aspect is my remembering I'm privileged — privileged to live in this garden. Worst short-fall is when I forget.

NWA is my stopover between the urban bookends of my adult life. NYC was a thoroughly gratifying, life-expanding experience. Paris, my next destination, will astonish me, I'm sure.

Now, here in NWA, everyday I'm soaking up the spaciousness and walking through the natural beauty of our gentle, mountain seasons. This Ozark

garden is an ideal oasis for filling the reservoirs of my thirsty soul, in ways no city can ever satisfy. This time and this place, for me, are perfect.

My senses are blissfully saturated and nurtured by abundance from every perspective — whether from the library deck viewing the Boston foothills or the crown of Mount Sequoyah looking down on the town square. Sometimes the cacophony of bird calls, the vastness of the blue skies and waters or the expansive green of pastures and forests stretching from roadsides seem absolutely overwhelming. Just when I think I've had enough, I'm yearning for more. Always, there is more. More beauty. More lushness. More satisfaction. I'm so, so grateful to be here.

Art — What is it?

Art is being loved and loving. Art is relationship. Art is listening, listening, listening and listening more. Art is joyously responding, telling what I hear with all the feeling and love, appreciation and passion I have in me.

What you consider art to be — those artists you respect, those you don't.

I admire artists, whether painters or dancers, writers or musicians, who take daunting risks, navigate lean times, hardships and delayed recognition and still, willingly, follow their art to the edge. The ones who then leap, sans safety net, because that's really the only choice. I'm inspired by these daring creative spirits who live surrendered and willing to stay true to their paths, when sometimes all that's sure is believing in the truth you live to tell.

How do you describe your work?

My work is vibrant with color, with life, with energy. My art is celebratory. My art is transformative. My work is stylish with simplicity and organic modernity. My art is sensual and fearless, powerful and playful, strong and leavened with humor. My art is beautiful and joyful and textured like love.

Why you do it?

I am absolutely in love with being alive. For me to be most fully alive is to make art. Art is an extension of my relationship with the mysterious other. I love being in relationship. For me to be in relationship is to feel treasured by other, to be in conversation, to listen and to tell what I hear.

Your muse?

My body is my much beloved, beautiful muse. I listen to my elegant body. The world of spirit speaks through her. Her promptings and intuitions and instincts are always impeccable. I give my muse exquisite attention because I ache to feel creative power coursing through me, manifesting that alarming paradox of feeling powerless while being a conduit of infinite power.

How often do you work and under what circumstances

I'm always working, everyday, all the time, whether I'm swimming laps or sipping coffee over the New York Times or walking, walking, walking or touching or having a heart-to-heart with someone I love. I'm working because I'm listening. Listening is my real work. Painting portraits and making art are expressions of my listening and telling what I hear. So, I'm always working because I'm always listening. But listening doesn't feel like work. Listening feels like my way of loving life and loving others. Painting is my way of saying, "I love you." Making portraits is my way of saying, "I hear and see your strength and beauty."

Person you most like to have purchase your work for their collection or place where you'd most like to show?

Anyone who purchases my art, whether the piece is as modest as a card or as grand as a portrait, makes to the top of my most-favored-patron list. The gift for me is having the connection and sharing the conversation. I'll show my work anywhere, anytime — provided I have enough help and support through others creating the

Continuation of Article

venue, while I use my time and energy to create the art.

How do you want people to respond to your work?

I like best hearing and seeing a viewer's heart response. Smiles are terrific. Tears, too!

Sometimes I don't fully understand a work until someone shares an intuitive insight. Often a story is offered that resonates with the piece. Then I get to enjoy the fullness of "Aha!"

Most memorable show and why?

Each show is like each painting. The one currently on the easel is the one I love most!

The show I'll be having this April and May, Creatures Great

and Small, in the Parish Hall Art Gallery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church will surely be memorable. The exhibit not only reprises significant images from past oeuvres, but also showcases my newest portrait work.

Accomplishments?

I've given life to a son and a daughter. Both are now creating remarkable lives of their own.

I've made art in more places than I can count. I've told a difficult story.

I've completed a body of work that was 20 years in the making.

I've recently celebrated my 60th birthday.

I have exciting plans for my next 20 years of portrait making.

Plans?

Painting portraits and living in Paris and the south of France.

Goals?

Listen. Love life, love others. Receive love, make love. Celebrate life, make art. Paint portraits.

For me success as an artist is.....

Having one more day to do what gives my life joy and meaning... to be loved and love, to listen and paint what I hear.

Meet Alice Lynn Greenwood at an artist's reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday (May 5) at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall.