

Let's talk to the artist!

Welcome Susan Thau!

Susan: “I think I should begin by telling how I got started. My husband, an artist and carver, and I were collecting driftwood- -it was so beautiful, so I said, “You should paint it.” He said, “You do it.” So my artwork started then! I used a wood burner and acrylics and started painting lighthouses on driftwood!”

These days, Susan still prefers using a wood surface, and starts with a wood burner to create the form, then finishes with acrylic paint. The inspiration for most of her work has been old buildings, those that have the character of being *well-lived-in*.

Susan and inspiration: “I am drawn to the idea that to paint old houses and storefronts is a way to preserve their memory in some way, as a form of respect. Many of the structures aren't around any more.”

She also loves painting our local birds and wildlife, and is still intrigued by lighthouses.

Susan and motivation:

“Sometimes my motivation for artwork is prompted by an upcoming **KIFA** show! It's fun when I sell a piece, because it's a kind of validation that my work is appreciated. But mainly, my motivation is more about enjoying the process. I see scenes and images, and I just want to paint them.”

Susan and her legacy: “When people see this artwork, I want them to be curious about the story, and to want to know the history behind the structures in my paintings.”



*Susan Thau shows her work in most **KIFA** and **ArtEast** events, and has several for sale at My Little Studio.*

Melissa Mackey