**Artist Biography**

**Donette Wilson**

Sitting on the floor and carefully opening up a brand new set of 64 crayons (every colour in existence in the eyes of a seven year old), I decided my favourite was not blue or green or red, but “magenta” … Dmy earliest art memory.

My observant parents gifted me with oil painting lessons at age 14. I was the youngest among a bunch of “oldies” but I didn’t mind. I was there to learn and create. At age 18 I moved states (in the USA) to go to college where I met my husband in 1987. Soon afterwards we married and we moved to his home in Sydney. I brought my easel and brushes but didn’t really touch them again until, thankfully, my husband and children encouraged me to take up my love of painting again. From 2014, two inspiring local artists and instructors came my way to guide me in exploring acrylics and oils. I have also been blessed by the encouragement of art minded friends along the way. I kept thinking I needed to learn more before I could see myself as a “real artist”, but it’s taken becoming a Nanna, I suppose, to gain enough wisdom to accept learning and confidence building is a forever process.

I’ve lived in numerous states in the USA, Sydney and Tasmania, taking in the uniqueness of each. I have now resided for the last 20 plus years in Redland City, the place of my ceremony in becoming an Australian citizen. The Redlands Coast is an inspiring place for an artist as it holds so much beauty in its natural surrounds.

I now enjoy working with oils and acrylics. I’m exploring many subject matters but seem to gravitate to natural scenes which include people or animals to tell a story. I also enjoy working with still life, but again, prefer if there is a meaning behind it. To me painting is more about the emotion or story behind the subject than the subject itself. The painting needs to capture a personality, evoke a memory, or just let the joy and beauty of creation in! My hope is anyone engaging with my work can find a similar meaning, although it may be different for each as our own unique memories, feelings, and experiences draw us into the painting.

By the way, my favourite colour is now almost any colour in that box of crayons!

Exhibits and Competitions

2021 Exhibiting at Straddievarious Gallery -Raby Bay, Queensland

2020-Present Exhibiting at Macleay Island Art Complex (MIAC), Macleay Island, Queensland

2020 1st Place Winner; “Monochrome Art Challenge” - MIAC

2016 2nd Place “Emergence 2016” -The Old Schoolhouse Gallery