

Kathi Geoffrion Parker

Artist **Kathi Geoffrion Parker**, a native New Mexican, now residing in White Rock with her husband of 44 years, was raised in Los Alamos and spent most of her adult life in the Los Alamos area. Her early education proceeded on a path through Aspen Elementary, Cumbres Middle and Los Alamos High School. She credits the dedicated LAPS art teachers for supporting her native talent and pushing her to work harder at it.

She credits her parents too, particularly her father who was artistic as well. “Once Dad told me to stay away from drawing people because it was too hard! Of course I wanted to impress him, so I think I took the warning as a personal challenge. I love drawing people and painting portraits, always have.”

Kathi’s first opportunity to draw the human form and learn about anatomy and proportion came in high school when she attended Life Drawing classes at Fuller Lodge Art Center. “I had to get special permission from my parents to attend those classes and draw the human body unclothed,” she recalls. “I still attend Life Drawing sessions. It’s foundational to all my art.”

Kathi earned a BS in Art Education at Eastern New Mexico University and went on to combine her art talent with technical pursuits in the graphic arts field. In 1976, she began a long and inspired career at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, moving from technical illustration, to graphic design, to pioneering web design as the internet was developed. She raised two children with her husband John and continued to make time for her personal art. Kathi retired from the Lab as a Marketing Specialist in 2011.

Kathi had several exhibitions of her artwork at Mesa Public Library’s old location next to the Post Office with her good friend, artist Gloria Sharp over 25 years ago. She participated many times in the Los Alamos Artist Studio Tour. In 2005 she received prestigious Signature Member status from the New Mexico Watercolor Society. Her work has won awards at regional art venues including the Spanish Market, New Mexico State Fair and New Mexico Arts & Crafts Fair.

In 2015, a solo exhibit titled, *Some Bodies —A One Woman Show* at Mesa Public Library’s Art Gallery, now named **Step Up Gallery**, drew wide acclaim with examples of her original art still in the library’s art collection for loan to library members. Kathi’s work has also been published in *Splash 18: The Best of Watercolor in 2017*. Her art has had a much-loved and constant presence in juried gallery shows at Fuller Lodge Art Center over the years.