

**THE MANY FACES OF MRS McCULLOUGH**

This exhibition is comprised of selected self-portraits I executed since the 1980's, with a few from the early 80's, and the rest up into the present. When students ask what they can draw I often suggest the self-portrait: all you need is a mirror, a pencil, and yourself looking back at you. And the trick is not only trying to capture likeness, but to bring out, reveal, the essence of who you see in that mirror. Capturing your true "essence" can be a little scary. The façade of who we are, call it a mask, has to be seen through in order for what's underneath to come across. All this can leave a person feeling vulnerable.

There's always risk-taking involved in making art, and I've urged my students to go ahead, simply take those risks, in spite of uneasiness that's connected with it. "Just drop the dubious goal of perfection, and seek clarity in that which is there." Here's what I mean: looking at something, a face, leaf, sea shell, etc, involves looking inside that source, and the ability to do that, to go exploring into things unknown, takes practice, and often more courage than we may have bargained for. Simply put, this can be risky business.

Art can be fun, but mostly it is a lot of hard work. Arriving at clarity for complex artistic problems requires painstaking effort that's often prolonged, even tedious. Having talent in art is no guarantee of being able to see inside a subject, advance beyond the imposing masks of appearances and uncover — let alone discover! — what-is-there.

I have tried to teach my students to hold to the difficult and resolve contending solutions in their work, to go for what is unique and original and leave behind what is facile, or that which might only blend-in or fit-in with mass appeal.

As the District #6 K-12 Art Teacher since 1981, I have sought to present the subject of Art in ways that are both encouraging and challenging to my students. Clearly, as students are capable of reading, writing, etc., so are they capable of drawing, painting, and making things requiring skill and imagination. Not everybody aspires to a career in art, and I've never expected that alone of my students.

I've wanted my students to develop abilities in art, but also to have a grasp of the history of art; that is, to see the big picture containing all of the arts, call it the humanities, in a wide historical context, and feel at home, have a sense of "place," within that context.

What an honor and privilege it's been to serve the people in the Cissna Park community by teaching their children for all these many years. Indeed, these are your children, but they are my students.

That said, I yield to the words of the late, great American poet, Stanley Kunitz (July 29, 1905 - May 14, 2006) . . .

"When you look back on a lifetime and think of what has been given to the world by your presence, your fugitive presence, inevitably you have to think of your art, whatever it may be, as the gift you have made to the world in acknowledgement of the gift you have been given, which is the life itself. And I think the world tends to forget that this is the ultimate significance of the body of work each artist produces. It is not an expression of the desire for praise or recognition, or prizes, but the deepest manifestation of your gratitude for the gift of life."

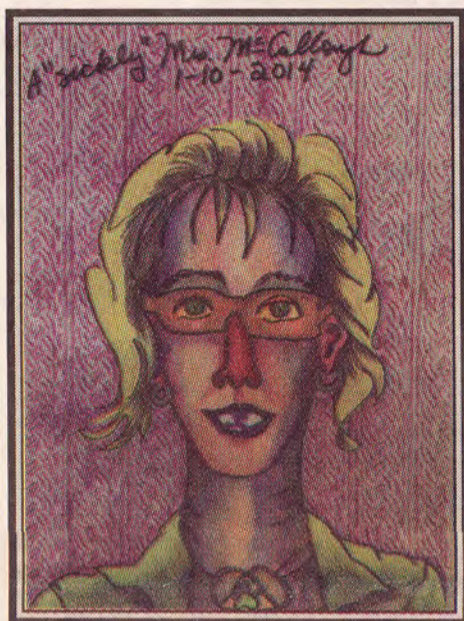
— Gale C. McCullough • September 25, 2014



"TWO BATS" black marker, March, 1992.



"AMERICAN GIRL" colored pencils, 1986.



"SICKLY MRS. McCULLOUGH" markers and crayons, January, 2014



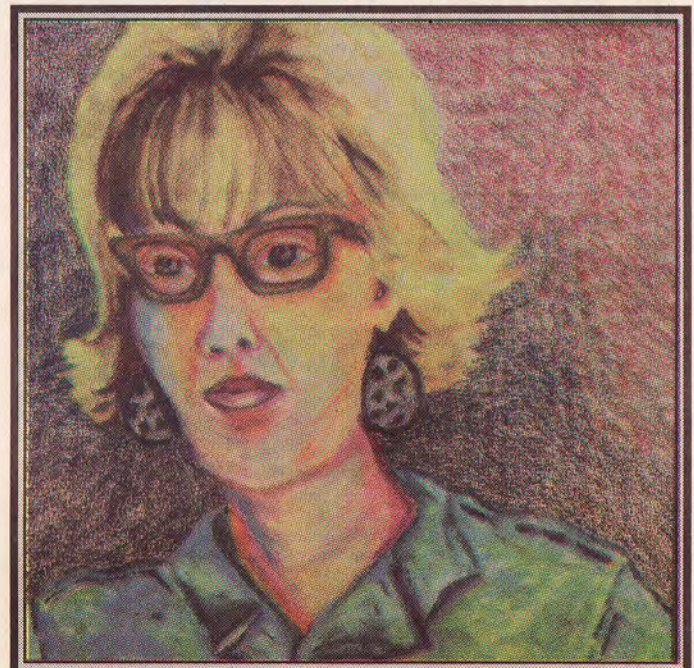
"SELF-PORTRAIT IN PIXELS" colored pencils, 2002.



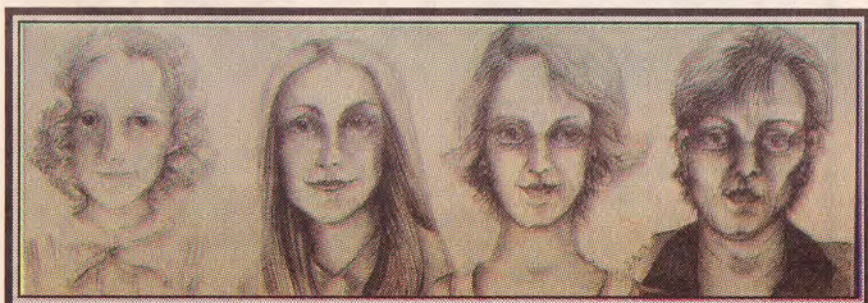
"THE DARK HOUSE PORTRAIT" watercolors, colored pencils, photo and markers, Spring, 2012. (Not for sale, artist's collection)



"SELF-PORTRAIT MIDDLE-AGED" pencil, August, 2006.



"SELF-PORTRAIT IN OIL CRAYONS" March 2014.



"THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE" pencil, May, 2005.



"MY YELLOW SHIRT"  
colored pencils and markers, February, 1986.



"SELF-PORTRAIT AS A TEACHER" pencil, 1984.



"SELF-PORTRAIT"  
watercolor and colored pencil, August, 2006.

**EDUCATION**

- \* 1977 Illinois Wesleyan University, BFA in Art.
- \* 1980 Illinois State University, MA in Art.
- \* 1994 Governors State University, postgraduate, printmaking.
- \* 2000 Governors State University, postgraduate, painting.
- \* 2001 Governors State University, postgraduate, painting.
- \* 2010 Governors State University, postgraduate, painting.

**COLLECTIONS**

- \* 1977 Illinois Wesleyan University, Panhellenic Committee, purchased a stone sculpture for the entrance of Ames Library.
- \* 1978 Harvey & Allaire Beutner, Indianapolis IN, stone sculpture.
- \* 1980 Dr. Terry Travis, Springfield IL, stone sculpture.
- \* 1985 Dr. Cresswell, Bloomington IL, stone sculpture.
- \* 1991 Guthoff & Co, Ltd, Bloomington IL, bronze sculpture.
- \* 1994 Alec & Nancy Nicolescu, Morristown NJ, silk screen print.
- \* 1994 Walter & Joyce Thompson, Brooklyn NY, silk screen print.
- \* 1996 Patricia Horton, Daytona FL, paintings.
- \* 2001 Karen Walder, Cissna Park IL, paintings.
- \* 2006 Dr. Laurel Berman, Chicago, IL, painting.

**REVIEWS & RECOGNITION**

- \* 1992, The New Art Examiner, Chicago, Karl Moehl, reviewed my work in the "Out of Time" exhibit, held at The McLean County Arts Center, in Bloomington, IL.
- \* 2006, Reader Magazine, Chicago. I received a full page review, with images, for work exhibited at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle campus.

**PROFESSIONAL CURATORIAL SERVICES RENDERED**

- \* 1988, I was appointed to serve as a judge for the Regional Art Scholastics High School Art Competition, South Chicago Region.

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- \* 1972, Summer Studio Scholarship Award in printmaking, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin & Racine Art Guild.
- \* 1973, High School Art Exhibition, Wustum Museum, Racine, Wisconsin. Medium: drawing.
- \* 1975, "Art on Paper," juried exhibition at Illinois State University. Medium: lithograph.
- \* 1977, "Selected Sculptures," BFA Exhibition, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL.
- \* 1979, "Invitational Show of Illinois Artists," Lakeview Museum, Peoria, IL. Medium: sculpture.
- \* 1985, "Group show of Gallery Artists," Nina Owen Gallery, Chicago, IL. Medium: sculpture.
- \* 1986, "Invitational Group Show," Chicago & Vicinity Sculptors, St James Cathedral, Chicago, IL. Medium: sculpture.
- \* 1991, "Out-of-Time, Sculptors of Bloomington-Normal," invitational group show, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL. Medium: sculpture.
- \* 1998, "Kankakee Area High School Visual Arts Faculty Group Exhibition," Kankakee Community College. Medium: drawings.
- \* 2000, "Kankakee Area High School Visual Arts Faculty Group Exhibition," Kankakee Community College. Medium: drawings.
- \* 2006, "Two-person Show," University of Illinois Chicago Circle campus. Medium: paintings.
- \* 2013, Gretchen Charleton Juried Art Exhibition, Kankakee, IL. Medium: painting. First prize award in painting.

**PEOPLE WHO HELPED TO SHAPE MY LIFE**

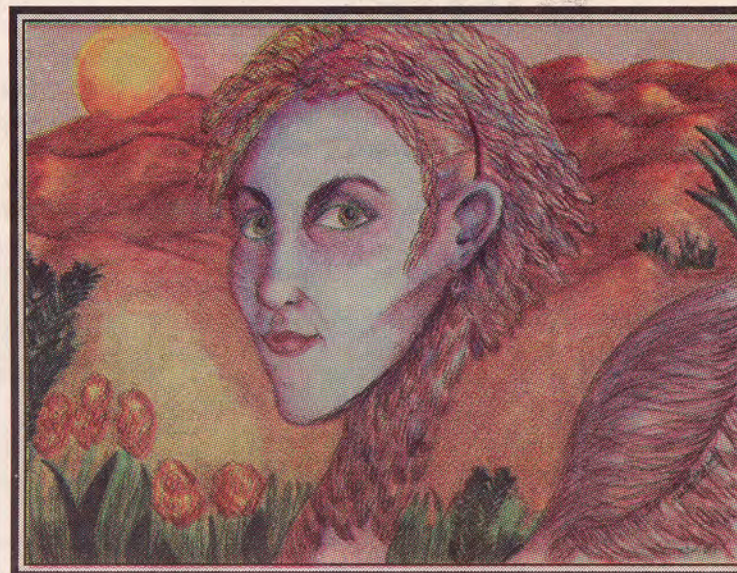
- \* Nancy Merwin. Patron of the Arts. Bloomington, IL. Though deceased (1995), she remains a major female role model; her expectations as a friend had deep roots and were for life.
- \* Don Baum. Chicago artist. His passing in 2008 was a sharp loss. Don was a dear friend and a mentor of the first order.
- \* John Mulvany. Teacher at Illinois Wesleyan University. John awakened students to both the discipline and the magic of film making — he passed it on! His lectures remain fresh in my mind.
- \* Henri Matisse. French artist, 1869-1954. Studying Matisse has been life long and forever fresh. It comes down to the simple acts of seeing what is there, what's right in front of you, and then being face-to-face with unfolding space(s) that contain it. Matisse never lets you take this marvel for granted.
- \* Laverne Bell. Cissna Park Postmaster. Rain or shine, the sun was always out in her world, and she delivered!

And the end  
of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive  
where we started  
And know the place  
for the first time.

T.S. Eliot. Concluding lines from "The Four Quartets."



"POLYPHONICS — A SELF PORTRAIT"  
acrylic paint, late 1990's.



"SELF-PORTRAIT AS A HERON HYBRID"  
colored pencils, February, 2004.



"IN MY WINTER HAT" colored pencils, 1986