

Rhonda Pettit Anderson Biography

Rhonda's art is a luminous fusion of color, emotion, and dual heritage. Born in Japan and raised mainly in the breezy landscape of San Diego, California, she has been immersed in creativity since she was a toddler, finding her voice through drawing and painting as soon as she could hold a crayon. With no artistic lineage in her family, Rhonda's passion for art bloomed from within, an instinctive drive that would guide the course of her life and career.

After earning an Associates degree in Fine Arts, Rhonda received formal training in drawing, design, and painting. The 1970s were foundational years, with her first professional foray as an airbrush artist. She was commissioned to paint not only on clothing but also on surfboards, hang glider sails, and murals—a vivid testament to her adaptability and flair for large, kinetic canvases.

Expressionism, particularly the expression of color, is the lifeblood of Rhonda's artistic inspiration. Her work gravitates toward the natural world, figures, and portraits—subjects chosen for their capacity to embody universal emotions and narratives. Her creative process begins with a story, which she rigorously explores in journals: from compositional sketches to color studies and emotional intent, each piece is mapped from concept to realization.

In her technique, Rhonda experiments with water media and intricate drawings, developing textures both within and across her subjects. Being half Japanese, she seamlessly blends Western expressionism with a Japanese aesthetic, endowing her work with a rare dichotomy that feels both rooted and spontaneous. Works such as her celebrated colored pencil work, *"Mono No Aware"*—where she orchestrated a kaleidoscope of leaves and lily blossoms in the spirit of Chuck Close or a reversed Gustav Klimt—have brought her significant acclaim, including top awards at international exhibitions. Her ability to abstract flowers, infusing them with movement and vibrancy through color and texture, continues to captivate audiences and judges alike.

Major influences are evident in her reverence for Matisse, Bonnard, Joseph Raffael, and Georgia O'Keeffe, but Rhonda's distinctive vision sets her art apart. She is an active member of the Colored Pencil Society of America, San Diego Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, American Women Artists, and the West Coast Drawing Group. Her works have graced the walls of venues such as the San Diego Watercolor Society, Oceanside Museum of Art, and exhibitions organized by the San Diego Museum of Art Artists Guild, as well as the annual CPSA International Exhibition.

Rhonda's accolades are numerous, including first and third prizes at the CPSA International Exhibition, multiple wins at the San Diego Fair, and recognition from the San Diego Watercolor Society. Nationally collected, her paintings have also been featured in publications such as *American Artist*, *International Artist*, and *To The Point*.

Collectors and critics alike describe her works as profoundly beautiful, often evoking a spiritual resonance. Away from the studio, Rhonda finds inspiration walking on the beach, sewing gifts for loved ones, and experimenting in the kitchen—pastimes that echo the sense of care and curiosity seen in her art.

She sees her creative journey not just as a personal pursuit but as a vital contribution to society, believing that artistic endeavors elevate humanity and enrich the world. With a career devoted fully to her practice, Rhonda's goal is to continue advancing her craft, sharing her vision through exhibitions that invite viewers into a realm of beauty, connection, and transformation.