

ARTISTS HIGHLIGHTS

Philosophical Artists of IOHAHI:IO

In the words of **Inez Cook Patterson**, Hairdresser Turned Artist



Inez Cook Patterson

I've enjoyed drawing all my life, but it wasn't until 2009 that I decided to go back to school to learn more about what I truly love.

IOHAHI:IO, Akwesasne Adult Education was offering an accredited course in Fine Art, so I signed up and to my delight, was accepted for a two year course of study.

I was beyond happy with all my classes which included; watercolor, oil and acrylic painting. They were all great, but acrylic has become my choice of choices.



I am also a portrait artist, but I have done landscapes and still life, and I do enjoy it all, but "my faces" are top priority at this time. I don't want to limit myself to just one

medium; I want to experience it all and move where spirit leads me. I have been given this gift, but without practice and dedication to my craft, it will not improve.

My wonderful art teacher, Sandra Taylor Hedges, said to our class that we all have the potential to be as "the Great Masters," it only takes practice and more practice.

To work at something you love is not work, it is exciting and stimulating to know that you are creating something that the Creator has instilled in you. Sandra gave us the "Rules for Painting and for Life..."

1. There are no Rules.
2. If it works, keep doing it.
3. If it's not working stop doing it.
4. Get a second opinion.
5. Knowledge doesn't guarantee result.
6. Creativity needs the company of creativity.
7. Challenge yourself and you will grow.
8. Creativity needs exercise daily.
9. If you think you know it all, sorry you don't.
10. Believe in your Dreams.

In my life I have worn many hats; home health giver, vintage clothes collector, hairdresser, make-up artist, photographer, homemaker and wife, daughter, sister, friend. Every one of these positions has given me such joy, but none has given me the fulfillment I get when I complete a painting. I have found my passion. It is not in another person (although the right partner can encourage you and be your muse), it is all within you. So live out your dreams...it is never too late. I am a testament to that.

Thank you PICEI magazine for your undying support to the arts. Naiwen Inez

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